

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 10 December 2018

AGENDA ITEM 6

Questions from Members

1. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council

The multi-year capital programme envisages spending in excess of £86M after the date of unitarisation.

Would the leader like to inform us of the mechanism which will guarantee that these commitments will be met?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

2. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Leader of the Council

As the Bucks County Council consultation on Early Help Services comes to an end this week we are closer to knowing which Children's Centres are going to be closed. In the proposals this includes the closure of both east Wycombe Children's Centres at Ash Hill School in Micklefield and the Hampden Way centre which serves Totteridge and Bowerdean.

It has been suggested that local residents and organisations could be offered the chance to keep these facilities open. What support could Wycombe District Council offer to help residents who wanted to do this?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

3. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Leader of the Council

Do you agree with me that now it is likely we will be having a Unitary Authority (a shame it's not going to be two) that it would be a good and prudent idea if a sub-committee could be set up in order to discuss the possibility of having a High Wycombe Town Council?

This committee could be comprised of local councillors and other individuals who have previously shown an interest in this subject.

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

4. Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Cabinet Member for Environment

In October WDC cabinet approved AQAP responding to poor air quality around High Wycombe mainly from traffic. This plan was a watered down version from the aspirations of the steering group who were involved in its early stages. The plan fell short of addressing the challenging but fundamental issues of how to get people out of their cars and onto their feet, cycles and public transport. Also through public consultation 41 respondents submitted in depth comments and suggested amended actions. Yet no change to draft plan was made.

Are these consultations just a waste of time and provide good reasons for people to become cynical about consultations?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Environment).

5. Question from Councillor M Harris to the Cabinet Member for Environment

Given the publicity around plastic in our oceans, I have residents asking what happens to the plastic in their recycling bin if it is recyclable. They would also like to know what happens if it's in the recycling bin but is not recyclable. And what if they put recyclable products in the landfill bin by mistake.

Could I ask the Cabinet Member to clarify the processes?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Environment).

6. Question from Councillor M A Hashmi to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

Online shopping has become a fact of life and continues to grow.

Is it not time for WDC to seriously consider the overhaul of the business rates system so that high street shops are not paying four times as much in business rates as their online rivals?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor D Watson (Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources).

7. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Cabinet Member for Environment

Wycombe District & Chiltern District councils' are currently undertaking a procurement exercise to seek tenders for a new 10 year contract to provide a joint waste, recycling and cleansing contract.

Given that the future of these councils in their existing format is limited, therefore is it wise to tie them into a 10 year contract?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Environment).

8. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration

When the Pound Shop closed in High Wycombe, we were all concerned that yet another empty shop had appeared on the High Street but lo and behold, a shop very similar opened within a very short time of the initial closure.

Was this a pure coincidence or was this due to hard work by council officials?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration).

9. Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Cabinet Member for Environment

A survey by the Gambling Commission has found that 89% of pubs failed to prevent children playing 18-plus gaming machines. The LGA has joined the Gambling Commission in calling on the industry to address the findings of this report and take urgent action to prevent young people from developing possible gambling problems as they grow older.

Surely WDC will be coming into contact with people impacted by gambling through a range of services, including housing and homelessness, financial inclusions and addiction services. This survey sends a clear signal that addressing problem gambling is a priority not just for public health and licensing but for the whole council and its wider stakeholders, thereby facilitating cooperation across departments and with local communities and partners.

What actions are WDC taking to strengthen work in this area?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Environment).

10. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Leader of the Council

Last December I asked you a question about Frogmoor and wanting to reclaim it as a place where all members of our community could feel welcome and safe.

Could you give us an update on what progress has been made to both reduce antisocial behaviour and generally improve the public realm in that part of High Wycombe?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).