

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 9th November 2022

AGENDA ITEM 9 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

1	<p>Question from Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor</p> <p>“For some time a significant nuisance was being caused to a number of residents in Denby Dale ward by virtue of works being carried on unlawfully at a site off Rowegate / Heator Lane at Upper Cumberworth. Following representations made by myself and residents the Council Officers took action to prosecute the perpetrators. I understand that the Council’s team included officers from Legal, Planning and Environmental - Noise nuisance along with counsel from King’s Chambers and I have written to thank the individuals them for a job well done...”</p> <p>This was a case we have been battling for 3 years and the Council took action through the (Court) prosecution process for the failure to comply with two enforcement notices, one for the storage of stone and the other in relation to the processing of stone at a site in the Green Belt. The council officers and the legal team had a number of technical arguments they had to overcome at several Court hearings , but ultimately were entirely successful in the end and the defendants found were found guilty on both counts by a District Judge.</p> <p>I understand that including paying the council’s costs of £18,000 and Court fine the total financial penalty to the defendants is £38,420. This doesn’t include covering their own legal costs which will no doubt have been significant.</p> <p>Does the leader agree with me that action such as this on the part of the Council sends a strong message that you can’t come to Kirklees, breach planning control and an enforcement notice and expect to “get away with it” and would the leader like to join with me in thanking the team for their endeavours in this regard and a job well done?”</p> <p>The Leader of the Council to respond</p>
2	<p>Question from Councillor Watson to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services – Councillor Kendrick</p> <p>“Defining one “night of respite care” as being the provision of one overnight stay to an individual child by the facility at Orchard House:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) What was the maximum number of nights of respite care that could have been provided to carers in Kirklees during the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020?b) How many nights of respite care were actually provided during this period?c) What was the maximum number of nights of respite care that could have been provided to carers in Kirklees during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021?d) How many nights of respite care were provided during this period?

	<p>e) What was the maximum number of nights of respite care that could have been provided to carers in Kirklees during the period 1 January 2022 to 1 November 2022?</p> <p>f) How many nights of respite care have been provided during this period?"</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
3	<p>Question from Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor</p> <p>“On 27 February 2022 I wrote a very detailed letter (comprising over 30 pages) to the leader in relation to highways issues in Denby Dale ward. The letter dealt with a significant number of issues that are of concern to residents throughout the ward including, by way of example, Stringer House Lane at Emley, Park Lane, Upper Cumberworth, Heator Lane and Rowegate at Upper Cumberworth, Busker Lane in Skelmanthorpe and Garden Terrace in Denby Dale.</p> <p>The letter was not simply a whinge but included a number of positive suggestions as to how the council might improve services in this regard. I would like to be able to feedback the response to that letter to the residents of Denby Dale ward. Is there going to be a response from the Leader and if so how long will we have to wait for a reply?”</p> <p>The Leader of the Council to respond</p>
4	<p>Question from Councillor Bamford to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor</p> <p>“Following on from the question by Cllr Watson about the letter he wrote to you regarding highways issues in Denby Dale ward, one of the issues he raised and made suggestions for improvement about was the bend on Busker Lane just past the Windmill pub heading out of Skelmanthorpe where there have been numerous accidents and pedestrians are extremely vulnerable.</p> <p>There has just been another incident to which the emergency services attended and I have had reports from some residents of the ward that they came very close to being struck by the lorry involved.</p> <p>This is a location through which many school children walk each day.</p> <p>Could the Leader please explain why Cllr Watson's suggestions for improvements are being ignored and nothing is being done to reduce the risk to pedestrians at this location.”</p> <p>The Leader of the Council to respond</p>
5	<p>Question from Councillor Cooper to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor</p> <p>“Where will the decision be taken to decide if we are to pursue an Investment Zone in Kirklees should it be offered by Government?”</p> <p>The Leader of the Council to respond</p>

6	<p>Question from Councillor Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Simpson</p> <p>“Now the Blacker Rd element of the A629 widening proposals has been cancelled what will the council tell residents who were due to lose homes and parts of their gardens?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
7	<p>Question from Councillor Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies</p> <p>“What support from Kirklees or others will be offered to voluntary and community organisations opening their buildings for use as warm spaces to the community?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
8	<p>Question from Councillor D Hall to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“How long should the public have to wait for the promised replacement of play equipment?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
9	<p>Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies</p> <p>“Has an assessment been undertaken on the cost of decarbonising Kirklees owned public buildings across the area?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
10	<p>Question from Councillor PA Davies to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Simpson</p> <p>“As the plans for the Cultural Heart are being shared more widely, can you please share the plans for the collections currently housed and displayed at the Tolson Museum?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
11	<p>Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Simpson</p> <p>“What is the Council doing to encourage homeowners to bid for Government funding to help with support for them to install alternative sustainable energy systems in their homes to reduce their reliance on mainstream energy suppliers going forward?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>

12	<p>Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies</p> <p>“How is the Council meeting the cost of inflation?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
13	<p>Question from Councillor Marchington to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“Why are there so many Homes and Neighbourhoods vehicles parked in the centre of Huddersfield at the moment?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
14	<p>Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care – Councillor Khan</p> <p>“With ongoing concerns about inflation, and food, energy and fuel prices in particular, I worry about the continuing viability of some of the organisations on which this Council relies to provide necessary care for our disabled, and many of our elderly, residents. Does this Council have robust contingency plans in place to ensure continuity of both domiciliary and residential provisions in the care sector should any providers go out of business?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
15	<p>Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care – Councillor Khan</p> <p>“Nursing Homes are subject to the same cost pressures as are Care Homes, but have additional problems with recruitment and retention of qualified nursing staff. Does this Council have suitable contingency plans in place to meet with the sudden closure of one or more Nursing Homes in the Borough?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
16	<p>Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“What are the public toilet provisions in Huddersfield Town Centre?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
17	<p>Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration – Councillor Turner</p> <p>“What was the amount spent on containers brought in to temporarily house traders from the Huddersfield and Dewsbury markets?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>

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Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities – Councillor Pattison

“Will there be provision to help feed children on free school meals over Christmas?”

The Cabinet Member to respond