

Oral Questions and Answers Given Post Meeting

The following Oral Questions were tabled, but owing to the expiry of the period of time permitted, were not covered during the meeting:

10) Councillor Bick to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Which of the new actions to prevent rough sleeping reported to him at Housing Scrutiny Committee is already having an impact on today's noticeably worsened situation on the city's streets? Does he think there is enough hostel capacity in the city?

- 1) Jimmy's and the street outreach team are working very closely around certain named entrenched rough sleepers. The idea is to share information on a daily basis about levels of engagement, confirmation of arrivals at Jimmy's etc. In addition the outreach team are doing more in reach work at Jimmy's to try and consolidate and sustain those they have placed. This approach has proved to be successful with two or three individuals.
- 2) Sourcing new accommodation options – the street outreach team is now working closely with a mobile home site outside of the city. We have drafted a working protocol for CGL to adhere to, which should ensure that the accommodation is of an appropriate standard. They have also sourced a philanthropic private landlord operating in Landbeach who has been offering accommodation for rough sleepers to move into and the team make weekly visits out there to check that all is ok with residents.
- 3) On the subject of hostel bed spaces, there are well in excess of 600 supported housing bed spaces in the city. However just having more bed spaces will not solve the problem in itself because, if those units become silted up then there is no advantage. Our suspicion is that move on performance in the supported housing sector could be better and so we have started some work to monitor this and have agreement from those providing hostel and supported housing accommodation to former rough sleepers to openly publish the results. This is compounded by the fact that 55% of the housing register in December 2015 consisted of applicants with a need for a one bedroom property and in the calendar year 2015 only 38% of all lettings to Cambridge City applicants on Home-Link were into one bedroom properties.

11) Councillor Sargeant to the Leader

What is the current position on work to develop shared services with other councils?

12) Councillor Sarris to the Leader

Are the police reviewing Parkside Police Station and what is the Council's view?

Parkside Police Station is allocated in both the current Cambridge Local Plan 2006 (Site 5.12) and the emerging Local Plan (Site M4) for residential development (50 dwellings).

As part of the on-going Local Plan process we have been in contact with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary Estates team, and understand that the lifespan of the existing buildings on the site is limited, due to the nature of the building's construction and the significant likely cost of remedial works to bring the building up to modern standards. Additionally, given the projected increase in the population the police's operational needs are changing. Furthermore, the site's location in the city centre makes it increasingly difficult to respond to calls within all areas of the Southern Division within an appropriate response time.

In 2010, the Cambridgeshire Constabulary estate team undertook some feasibility work but did not progress relocation any further at that time and we have not had recent detailed discussions. They have however, continued to support the allocation in the adopted and emerging Local Plans in order to keep their options open, and have respond to the Council's Annual Monitoring Report, so that we can produce an informed housing trajectory. The most recent Annual Monitoring Report (published December 2015) shows delivery of 50 housing units on the site in 2020/21. No planning application has been submitted as yet for this site. The Council's Annual Monitoring Report 2015 is available at <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/content/annual-monitoring-reports>. The next Annual Monitoring Report will be produced later this year and we will be contacting landowners (including the Cambridgeshire Constabulary Estates team) again regarding sites across the city later this Summer.

Furthermore, as part of the work on the Local Plan examination, we produced a statement of common ground with Cambridgeshire Constabulary Estates in March 2015, which confirms the likely delivery of the site to be 2020/21. The statement of common ground also covers

a number of issues with the existing buildings on the site. I have attached this statement of common ground for your information.

14) Councillor Page-Croft to the Executive Councillor for Environment and Waste

Does the Executive Councillor believe in the use of by laws by the city council to deal with issues?

Secondary Question

15) Councillor Barnett to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

Given opposition party claims about maternity leave provision during the 2015/16 budget setting process, can he advise the outturn on the funding reserve allocated?

The budgeted provision for maternity pay in 2015/16 was £75k. This provision was created to fund any requirements that could not be met from within existing budgets. £41k was spent from the provision in the year, with the balance of £34k being returned to general fund reserves at the end of the year.

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