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2. Reduce Number of Play Areas

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3. 8 Acres of Parks Land to Housing a Year

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

"Equality Analysis"

Question:

Does the Leader or another Cabinet Member approve the Equality Analysis reports which come to Cabinet?

Answer:

It is standard Council practice that new strategies, policies and projects or reviews of existing strategies, policies and projects are subject to an equality analysis, the outcomes of which are required to be included in any subsequent Cabinet reports, approved by the relevant Cabinet Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN

"Equality Analysis 2"

Question:

Does the Leader of the Council think Equality Analysis reports which come to Cabinet are a good use of resources?

Answer:

Equality Analyses are required to be carried out by the City Council to be in compliance with the Equalities Act 2010. All new strategies, policies and projects, in addition to reviews of existing strategies, policies and projects, require an Equality Analysis, the outcomes of which are included in Cabinet reports to highlight adverse impact on any protected characteristic. Therefore, the analyses are an important and legally required resource.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD

"MIPIM in Cannes"

Question:

Which City Councillors will be attending MIPIM in Cannes?

Answer:

Just myself, as Leader of the Council.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

"Flytipping"

Question:

Following the Leader's press release after the last Council Meeting, how many incidents of flytipping have been cleaned up by the city this month, compared to the number of incidents reported to the Council?

Answer:

Waste Management received 2,624 reports (recorded as service requests) of flytipping in the period of 1st February 2016 to 25th February 2016.

Request Outcome	Number of Requests
No further action (completed)	2,263
Passed to other department	11
Unable to collect or items not available	20
Duplicate request	15
Request not justified	19
Requests still open	296
TOTAL	2,624

Where appropriate, the Waste Enforcement Unit is engaged prior to cleaning as an attempt to identify flytippers in the city.

Environmental Health received 728 reports (recorded as service requests) of fly-tipping in the period of 1st February 2016 to 29th February 2016.

Request Outcome	Number of Requests
No further action (compliant –rubbish removed by BCC or residents).	106
Not compliant	5
Not Environmental Health (passed to a different team/department)*	84
Request not Justified.**	24
Requests still open (investigation ongoing and action currently being taken)	509
TOTAL	728

* Passed to Other Department:

Recorded by complainant as fly-tipped matter yet relates to highways, housing issue or parks issue. For example, complaining about the condition of a garden in respect of a council tenant.

**Not justified:

Officer has visited the site referred in the complaint and found that it is not related to fly-tipped rubbish but has been recorded as such on the system. For example, litter in streets can be defined by some complainants as "fly-tipped rubbish".

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK

"The name is Bond....."

Question:

How many meetings have the Council had with Aston Martin, broken down by which Cabinet Member or Officer had met them, in the last 12 months?

Answer:

6 meetings and a conference call have been held with Aston Martin, details as follows:

Meeting with Aston Martin 3rd September 2015 – Ian MacLeod (Head of East Development) and Wouter Schuitemaker (Investment Director - Marketing Birmingham)

Meeting with Aston Martin 6th September 2015 – Ian Macleod (Head of East Development) and Wouter Schuitemaker (Investment Director - Marketing Birmingham)

Meeting with Aston Martin 29th September 2015 – Ian MacLeod (Head of East Development), Basit Ali (Birmingham Property Services) and Wouter Schuitemaker (Investment Director - Marketing Birmingham)

Conference Call with Aston Martin 13th October 2015 – Paul Dransfield (Strategic Director) and Neil Rami (Chief Executive – Marketing Birmingham)

Meeting with Aston Martin 13th November 2015 – Councillor Sir Albert Bore (then Leader of the City Council), Paul Dransfield (Strategic Director) and Neil Rami (Chief Executive – Marketing Birmingham)

Meeting with Aston Martin 30th November 2015 – Peter Jones (Director of Property), Paul Dransfield (Strategic Director), Ian MacLeod (Head of East Development) and Neil Rami (Chief Executive – Marketing Birmingham)

Meeting with Aston Martin Tuesday 2nd February 2016 - Ian MacLeod (Head of East Development) and Neil Rami (Chief Executive - Marketing Birmingham)

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP

"Days of Action 2"

Question:

Following the Leader's press release after the last Council Meeting, given the "days of action" the Leader announced, what have these days actually involved, including outcomes?

Answer:

Officers from the waste enforcement unit and Environmental Health Service target hotspot areas to try and identify a solution to a particular problem in respect of flytipping, poor presentation of waste and duty of care.

Businesses are visited in areas where waste piles are presented to ensure businesses have appropriate waste contracts. Piles of sacks are searched to try and identify who is responsible and where appropriate enforcement action investigations ensue.

We are looking for residents and businesses to comply with the requirements of the law and the correct process for presenting domestic waste through a process of education, awareness raising and enforcement. We are also targeting rogue traders that are flytipping to gain an advantage over their competitors.

	Apr- 15	May- 15	Jun- 15	Jul-15	Aug- 15	Sep- 15	Oct- 15	Nov- 15	Dec- 15	Total 2015/2016	
Waste Investigation Outcomes					<u>I</u>						
Investigations into commercial waste disposal suspected offences and offences	57	32	44	123	13	27	41	33	11	381	
Section 34 Environmental Protection Act demand notices issued: (trade waste statutory information demands)	40	25	30	95	23	18	22	19	10	282	
<u>Section 34 Environmental Protection</u> <u>Act</u> fixed penalty notices issued to businesses (£300)	2	2	4	6	6	5	1	5	6	37	Paymen rate = 27%
Section 87 Environmental Protection Act. Fixed Penalty notices issued for commercial and residential litter offences (£80)	26	15	15	11	15	16	14	4	9	125	Paymen rate = 66%
Prosecutions	<u> </u>			<u> </u>	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	1	<u> </u>		
Prosecutions submitted to legal services										99	

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

"Leader's Diary"

Question:

Does the Leader intend to publish his diary, as was requested of his predecessor? Perhaps he might use a dedicated Leader's page on the Council website, as this appears to be lacking.

Answer:

I will continue to regularly publish details of my diary, and would encourage the other group leaders to do the same.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

"Days of Action"

Question:

Following the Leader's press release after the last Council Meeting, can he inform us how many "days of action" have taken place across the City listed by Ward?

Answer:

The waste enforcement unit and environmental health service have undertaken three all out days so far with new dates being arranged for each month. These all out days are not targeted by wards but through complaint referral. In the three days so far over 1000 incidents have been addressed.

All available officers were involved from these services which equated to 29 officers on the first day, 23 on the second day and 24 are out today (1 March 2016) looking at duty of care, flytipping and other waste enforcement issues.

The services are looking at a number of initiatives to increase compliance including asking traders and businesses to display a sticker highlighting that a waste disposal contract is in force at their premises.

	Apr- 15	May- 15	Jun- 15	Jul-15	Aug- 15	Sep- 15	Oct- 15	Nov- 15	Dec- 15	Total 2015/2016	
Waste Investigation Outcomes					<u>I</u>						
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Prosecutions	<u> </u>			<u> </u>	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	1	<u> </u>		
Prosecutions submitted to legal services										99	

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE

"Allocations"

Question:

Under the previous Conservative/Liberal Dem administration in Birmingham, believing in cross party working, the Labour opposition group was allocated a space on the Birmingham Env partnership (the predecessor group to the Green Commission), the Digital Partnership (predecessor to the Smart Commission) and the City Centre Partnership Board.

Currently, there is no allocated opposition space for the Green Commission, the Smart Commission or the City Centre Partnership Board.

In the interests of cross party working, will the Leader of the Council reconsider the allocation of opposition places to the above?

Answer:

Yes.

A10

CITY COUNCIL - 1 MARCH 2016

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN

"Recycling"

Question:

As the refuse service is not fit for purpose, will residents be receiving a refund on their Council Tax?

Answer:

The council tax only partially funds our services and is not directly attributable to a specific service and therefore there will not be a refund.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY

"Energy"

Question:

How much money has Birmingham spent establishing Energy Savings Company so far?

Answer:

To date there has been no expenditure incurred directly in the establishment of the Energy Services Company.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW

"Energy 2"

Question:

How much income money has Birmingham received from Energy Savings Company so far?

Answer:

The City Council has not yet established an Energy Services Company and there is therefore no income.

The 2015/16 savings target of £100k will be met in full from the across the Council's energy budgets.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ROB SEALEY

"Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings"

Question:

Under Section 85 of the LGA 1972,

85 Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings.

(1)Subject to subsections (2) and (3) below, if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.

(2)Attendance as a member at a meeting of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or at a meeting of any joint committee, joint board or other body by whom for the time being any of the functions of the authority are being discharged, or who were appointed to advise the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions, and attendance as representative of the authority at a meeting of any body of persons, shall be deemed for the purposes of subsection (1) above to be attendance at a meeting of the authority.

(2A)Subject to subsections (2B) and (3), if a member of a local authority which are operating executive arrangements, who is also a member of the executive of that local authority, fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the executive, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the local authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the local authority.

(2B)For the purposes of this section—

- (a)the discharge by a member, acting alone, of any function which is the responsibility of the executive; and
- (b)in respect of a mayor and cabinet executive or leader and cabinet executive, attendance as a member at a meeting of a committee of the executive, shall each be deemed to be attendance at a meeting of the executive.
- (3)A member of any branch of Her Majesty's naval, military or air forces when employed during war or any emergency on any naval, military or air force service, and a person whose employment in the service of Her Majesty in connection with war or any emergency is such as, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, to entitle him to relief from disqualification on account of absence, shall not cease to be a member of a local authority by reason only of a failure to attend meetings of the local authority or of a failure to attend meetings of the executive] if the failure is due to that employment.
- (3A)Any period during which a member of a local authority is suspended or partially suspended under section 66, 66A, 73, 78, 78A or 79 of the Local Government Act 2000 shall be disregarded for the purpose of calculating the period of six consecutive months under subsection (1) or (2A) above (and, accordingly, a period during which a member fails to attend meetings of the authority or, as the case may be, meetings of the executive that falls immediately before, and another such period that falls immediately after, a period of suspension or partial suspension shall be treated as consecutive).
- (4)In this section "local authority" includes a joint authority, an economic prosperity board, a combined authority and a joint waste authority.

a City Councillor is disqualified for non-attendance if the Councillor does not turn up to a meeting of the City Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees within a six month period without a dispensation granted by the Local Authority within this six month period.

Is there any City Councillor, as from 31st July 2015 who has not attended any such meetings of the City Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees and who does not have such dispensation?

Answer:

I am aware of just one elected member who has not been in regular attendance at Council meetings since an accident in the summer of 2015, and that no Council dispensation has been granted for this member to not be in attendance.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

"Budget Savings 1"

Question:

Under the saving proposal E23 how much is the City Council projected to actually save in 2015/2016

Answer:

As reported to Cabinet in the Month 8 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report, it is proposed that this saving of £6.8m be funded corporately in 2015/16 through use of available resources identified within Treasury Management.

The Council's employee numbers did not reduce as rapidly as forecast when the budget saving for 2015/16 was set and consequently the services required and quantum of ICT/telephony across the council has not reduced as expected. Service Birmingham continue to work with the council to identify new savings proposals to mitigate this position and as the council changes in the future there will be reductions in the amount of ICT consumed.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK

"Budget Savings 2"

Question:

Under the saving proposal E16 how much is the City Council projected to actually save in 2015/2016?

Answer:

This saving of £157k relates to GBSLEP. Actions are in place to fully achieve this saving in 2015/16.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

"Budget Savings 3"

Question:

Under the saving proposal PL26 how much is the City Council projected to actually save in 2015/2016?

Answer:

The target saving for the Market Services (PL26) was £1m in 2015/16 and related primarily to increasing income. It is estimated that the entire saving will not be achieved in 2015/16 due to the complex historic legal consultation framework established through the courts.

It is anticipated that compensating savings will be identified in 2015/16 to meet this shortfall.

With regard to 2016/17 and future years, it is proposed in the City Council Business Plan and Budget 2016+ to allocate an additional £0.7m to this service to mitigate the position.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN

"Budget Savings 4"

Question:

Under the saving proposal PL21 how much is the City Council projected to actually save in 2015/2016?

Answer:

The target savings for the Waste Disposal Services (PL21) were £1.5m in 2015/16 and related primarily to increasing trade waste income. It is estimated that £0.8m will be achieved in 2015/16.

It is anticipated that compensating savings will be identified in 2015/16 to meet the residual shortfall of £0.7m.

There are proposed further increases in trade waste charges for 2016/17 (from April 2016) and that will substantially recover the under-recovery from 2015/16.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY

"Budget Savings 5"

Question:

Under the saving proposal P26 how much is the City Council projected to actually save in 2015/2016?

Answer:

The savings target for P26 was £1.736m.

The City Council has delivered this saving in 2015/16. This has been achieved through stopping funding to some services and additional savings through the recommissioning of Substance Misuse and Sexual Health services.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW

"Budget Savings 6"

Question:

Under the saving proposal P22 how much is the City Council projected to actually save in 2015/2016?

Answer:

The City Council will meet the 2015/16 savings target of £5m for this service on an on-going basis, except for a small proportion (around £0.5m) which has been contributed on a one-off basis from Direct Schools Grant in 2015/16, pending further service changes in 2016/17.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

"Budget Savings 7"

Question:

Under the saving proposal P24 how much is the City Council projected to actually save in 2015/2016?

Answer:

Nil.

This saving of £0.268m relates to Unattached School Playing Fields. The budget monitoring report states: "The action plan for savings is progressing slowly due to complex legal issues".

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

"Councillors Smartphones - Twitter and Facebook disabled"

Question:

Forward, dated Winter 2015-16, states: "Councillors... will be better equipped to communicate with residents through smarter use of technology and channels like social media."

Could the Deputy Leader explain why the latest smartphones issued to Councillors have the Twitter and Facebook apps disabled?

Answer:

Access to Facebook and Twitter is available for Windows Smartphones via Internet Explorer and anyone can set up a personal (non BCC) account for using Twitter or Facebook today.

App stores for BCC Windows Smartphones are managed and controlled in line with BCC policy. Open access to Twitter and Facebook Apps (on phones) would result in additional costs to the Council for which there is not currently a budget.

Facebook and Twitter are available on Council desk tops and lap tops.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT

"Secondary Transfer Request"

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of this year's secondary transfer requests handled by SENAR to include, the total number of transfers, the number with Statements, the number with Finalised Education Health & Care Plans and the number with Unfinalised Education Health & Care Plans?

Answer:

As at 15 February 2016

a) Total Cohort:	536
b) EHC Transfer Initiated:	352
c) Statements (No EHC Transfer Review):	147
d) Statements:	409
e) Final EHC Plans Issued:	90
f) Draft EHC Plans Issued (initial assessment):	37

It is recognised by the DfE that some Local Authorities, including Birmingham, have not been in a position to issue final EHC Plans on time. It can be confirmed that given this situation, all parents were advised that there has been a delay and the LA are working towards issuing EHC Plan as soon as possible in addition to confirming the school that has been allocated for their child.

10 EHC Transfer Officers have been requested to issuing draft EHC Plans for all of those pupils for whom an EHC Transfer has been initiated with the aim to issue all possible EHC Plans by end of March 2016. For those pupils for whom an EHC Transfer has not been initiated, prompts will be given to those school settings to take

necessary action enabling the LA to issue an EHC Plan for those pupils within 20 weeks of the transfer process commencing.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW

"Barring Orders"

Question:

How many Barring Orders have been issued to the Council from the SENDIST Tribunal, (whereby the Council has failed to provide any response or evidence and is therefore barred from attending the hearing) over the following periods?

April 2013 - March 2014

April 2014 – March 2015

April 2015 – present

Answer:

a)	April 2013 – March 2014	0
b)	April 2014 – March 2015	0
c)	April 2015 to present:	15

This is an issue that has already been highlighted within the Service and some remedial action has been identified in order to prevent this increasing. This involves consideration of the Tribunal Lead role in the longer term, in order to increase capacity for this area of work (moving from a 0.5 FTE in each area to 2 FTE across the service).

Immediate action has been able to be taken in the form of protected time during the week for Tribunal Leads to focus on SENDIST activity with colleagues and ensure that directions are complied with. A consistent channel for communication with SENDIST has also been identified in order that all information in relation to SENDIST appeals can be accurately tracked and monitored <a href="mailto:sendings-sendin

Additional support is also being provided to the Tribunal Leads in the form of professional development in order to support with knowledge and skill for those who have been new to SEN and Tribunal activities, from September 2014.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

"Future School Crossing Wardens"

Question:

How many school crossing wardens is Birmingham City Council planning to employ over the next 4 years broken down by year, i.e. 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019?

Answer:

2016 - As at February 2016 there are 194 wardens in post. During the year the Council will continue to recruit to vacant posts at Priority 1 sites not equipped with pedestrian controlled lights.

2017 – as set out in the Council Business Plan 2016/17+, to be presented to Full Council today, 1 March 2016, the number of wardens employed in future will depend on alternative funding streams being identified, and the setting up of a Trust

2018 – as for 2017

2019 – as for 2017

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK

"School Crossing Wardens"

Question:

Since 2011, listed by year, how many school crossing wardens does Birmingham City Council employ?

Answer:

The Councillor will be aware that until May 2015, decisions about the school crossing service were the responsibility of individual District Committees. Therefore, whilst I am happy to provide him with the figures relating to the period before May 2015, should he wish any further details I will need to refer him to those District Committees.

April 2011	307
April 2012	285
April 2013	263
April 2014	227
April 2015	222
February 2016	194

The number of wardens employed is not a constant figure throughout the year, but fluctuates as staff leave or are recruited. The figures presented therefore represent a snapshot of the number of wardens employed at a specific point in time each year.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY

"TROs - 1"

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member explain why local highways officers have been instructed not to use TROs to keep traffic clear on junctions, apparently on the grounds that this could be enforced by the local police, setting out the nature of any savings achieved by this policy and what assessment has been made of the capacity of the diminishing neighbourhood police teams to conduct enforcement?

Answer:

To be clear no such instruction has been given to local highway officers; and to answer the further written questions I have received on this matter from Councillors Choudhry and Eustace, there is not a policy to not put waiting restrictions at junctions using our Traffic Regulation Order powers.

In the design of all highway schemes that require parking restrictions consideration is given to the impact the scheme proposals will have on the resources of the Council and the practicalities and expectations for enforcement. The creation of restrictions such as double yellow lines in remote residential areas, whilst often required, can be difficult to resource with regular enforcement patrols given the Council's own budget constraints.

All highway scheme designers are aware that even without parking restrictions being present, the Police have powers to enforce dangerous and obstructive parking on the Highway including where vehicles are parked within 10 metres of a junction as set out in the Rule 243 of the Highway Code. On this basis scheme designers are asked to consider the necessity for parking restrictions on the merits of each specific location.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY

"TROs - 2"

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member give the Council the date and the meeting at which he approved the new policy instructing local highways officers not to put TROs on junctions (on the grounds that illegal parking can be enforced by the police)?

Answer:

To be clear no such instruction has been given to local highway officers; and to answer the further written questions I have received on this matter from Councillors Choudhry and Eustace, there is not a policy to not put waiting restrictions at junctions using our Traffic Regulation Order powers.

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE

"Respect Double Yellow Line"

Question:

Does the Cabinet Member believe a motorist, parked illegally on a junction, is more likely to respect a double yellow line on a junction or the threat made by a passerby to call the police to have them moved?

Answer:

Hypothetical questions can only be answered on the basis of individual assumptions. However, Birmingham's Highways are not managed on this basis, but rather within the legal and financial constraints under which we, as the Highways Authority, have to operate.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

"Missed Recycling"

Question:

The Council gave a statement to Radio WM for an item about missed recycling collections, which was read out on the Drive Time Show on Friday 5th, which stated that because of the high levels of recycling in Harborne and Edgbaston, two additional crews would be added in from Monday 8th February to help cope with the demand, and one extra crew for Longbridge from a week Thursday (the Council's words – not mine).

Can you tell us if the three additional crews started work, including what roads they covered?

Answer:

Two additional crews are in place. The roads covered include:-

Woodbourne Road, Augustus Road, Harborne Road, Ravenhurst Road, Sir Harrys Road, Vicarage Road, Westbourne Road, including side roads/groves, Cock Hill Lane, Frogmill Lane, Wolverton Road, Cliff Rock Road, Heronswood Road, Newmans Way, Ryde Park Road. Additionally side roads and groves.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS

"Refuse Collection"

Question:

Do we know what the extra cost is as a result of Labour administration having to collect waste at weekends through a failure of service in the week, including whether is this part of the contract or required overtime at an additional cost to the rate payer?

Answer:

The cost of overtime working at the weekend is not easily disaggregated from the total overtime cost.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY

"Recycling"

Question:

What was the amount of recycling collected per ward for each quarter for the last two years?

Answer:

Information is not available in this format. The recycling collection rounds are zonal and do not match the ward boundaries. As at the end of January 2016, the overall recycling figure for the city was 29%, against a target for the year of 35%.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN

"Staffing Figures"

Question:

What are the staffing figures from the Future Operating Model for refuse collections?

Answer:

The estimated FTE Employees for 2016/17 after taking into account planned savings are:

Street Cleansing: 303

Refuse Collection, Recycling, Trade Waste, Green Waste, Fleet Services, Management and Business Support: 564

Total Waste Management Services: 867

This is currently being reviewed with a view to bringing forward a Future Operating Model for consideration.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN

"Pick it Up"

Question:

What are the staffing figures from the Future Operating Model for street cleaning?

Answer:

The estimated FTE Employees for 2016/17 after taking into account planned savings are:

Street Cleansing: 303

Refuse Collection, Recycling, Trade Waste, Green Waste, Fleet Services, Management and Business Support: 564

Total Waste Management Services: 867

This is currently being reviewed with a view to bringing forward a Future Operating Model for consideration.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY

"Fleet and Waste Breakdowns last 2 years"

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member report the number of breakdowns of fleet and waste vehicles by month for the last two years?

Answer:

The number of breakdowns of fleet and waste vehicles by month for the previous two years are as follows:-

Year 2014	Total	Year 2015	Total
February	21	February	23
March	22	March	25
April	32	April	28
May	27	May	21
June	28	June	29
July	26	July	27
August	27	August	31
September	34	September	21
October	37	October	25
November	26	November	39
December	21	December	25
January	21	January	31

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN

"Street Cleaners"

Question:

How many street cleaners are there per depot?

Answer:

These are the figures for the number of street cleansers at each depot as of January 2016.

Montague Street Depot - 70

Lifford Depot - 86

Perry Barr Depot - 84

Redfern Road Depot - 99

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR UNDERWOOD

"Refuse Collection Staff"

Question:

How many refuse collection staff are there per depot?

Answer:

These are the figures for the number of refuse collection staff at each depot as of January 2016.

Montague Street Depot - 69

Lifford Depot - 130

Perry Barr Depot - 149

Redfern Road Depot - 173

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

"Household bulk collections over last 2 years"

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member set out the number of orders for household bulk collections by month for the last two years, giving figures for the total numbers and the number of households using the service?

Answer:

	Total Number of Orders	Total Number of Households
January 2014	4,474	4,161
February 2014	4,120	3,848
March 2014	4,493	4,172
April 2014	1,145	966
May 2014	1,107	1,010
June 2014	1,135	1,038
July 2014	1,316	1,203
August 2014	1,230	1,083
September 2014	1,195	1,087
October 2014	1,191	1,093
November 2014	1,211	1,098
December 2014	680	626
January 2015	1,073	988
February 2015	1,176	1,067
March 2015	1,389	1,230
April 2015	1,590	1,417
May 2015	1,371	1,178
June 2015	1,452	1,310
July 2015	1,619	1,420
August 2015	1,465	1,303
September 2015	1,475	1,296
October 2015	1,457	1,300
November 2015	1,362	1,229
December 2015	751	666
TOTAL	39,477	35,789

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR SAMBROOK

"Refuse Wagons"

Question:

How many refuse wagons are there per depot?

Answer:

The number of refuse/recycling wagons per depot is as follows:-

Lifford Lane Depot - 45

Montague Street Depot - 17

Perry Barr Depot - 42

Redfern Depot - 40

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD

"It's your round"

Question:

During the pilot stage of the wheelie bin roll out, what was the average number of properties per round?

Answer:

During the pilot stage of the wheelie bin roll out, the average number of properties per round was between 1100 and 1560, depending on the geography of the area of an individual round.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

"Our House"

Question:

What is the average number of properties per refuse collection round as of 1 March 2016?

Answer:

The average number of properties per refuse collection round as of 1 March 2016 is 1400.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

"Staffing"

Question:

What is the average number of properties per refuse collection round used in the Future Operating Model, i.e. what the future staffing levels are based on?

Answer:

The business case for the wheelie bin roll out was predicated on average refuse collection rounds of 1500.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY

"Is this the Way..."

Question:

How many street cleaning staff were assigned to clean the Coventry Road on each Saturday during the months of January and February 2016, broken down by each Saturday?

Answer:

There are 3 beat sweepers working 7.3 hours each Saturday

- 1 large sweeper machine cleaning the channels for about 45 minutes (average 3 weeks out of 4).
- 1 small sweeper machine cleaning the pavements for about 60 minutes (average 3 weeks out of 4).

A 2 handed crew that empties litter bins and clears up around shop fronts that works for an average of 1 hour per Saturday on the Coventry Road.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR JERRY EVANS

"Street Cleaning when required"

Question:

Can the Cabinet Member explain the proposal in the budget plan that street cleaning plans will be revised "according to when they are required", explaining whether this will be done on a city-wide basis or a ward basis?

Answer:

The street cleaning budget for 2016/17 has been reduced by £2m in total. In the future, resources will be deployed on a 'needs' basis. There will be a city-wide plan which will establish the required resources. This complement of staff and vehicles will then be broken down into a district/ward service delivery schedule which will identify the type of cleansing on the frequency that it is to be carried out. This will be reviewed regularly.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW HARDIE

"Special Arrangements"

Question:

I have asked previously about the situation of residents whose collections of Household Waste and Recycling occur on Mondays as they lose a collection on Bank Holidays but have received no reply; no special provision was made for them at Christmas and the same problem will be occurring on more than one occasion this year. What arrangements will be put in place on these occasions?

Answer:

There are recycling and refuse collections on every Monday of the year, apart from where they fall on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. On these occasions, specific arrangements will be made for those residents. These will be publicised in good time for Christmas.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR ROB SEALEY

"Overtime"

Question:

How much has been spent on overtime in Fleet and Waste Management since November 2015 to date?

Answer:

The overtime expenditure totalled £437,000 between November 2015 and February 2016. This includes all the refuse collection, recycling collection and street cleaning services.

This expenditure represents 1.5% of the estimated annual employee costs of £28.9m in 2015/16.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW

"Figures"

Question:

Under saving SN2 in the Budget, there is an anticipated spend in 2017/18 of £676,000 and a net income of £2m in 2018/19, 2019/20 what does this relate to?

Answer:

The analysis provided by officers represented an internal estimate, at a point in time, of the potential financial implications of different measures that could be implemented to achieve the outcomes of this proposal. One of the measures considered related to congestion charges and the expenditure and income detailed above related to this measure.

The Business Plan 2016+ that was considered by Cabinet describes the Council's final position and does not include proposals for congestion charges.

The total net budget assumption included in the Plan for the 4 years 2016/20 (£0.194m, £1,022m, (£5.0m), (£5.0m)) are unchanged from those in the Budget Consultation document. Further work and consultation will be required to develop these transport initiatives, and this will determine how the upfront net investment budgets will be used and how the Year 3 and 4 net savings figures will be achieved.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP

"One Man's Rubbish"

Question:

What is the budget for refuse collections for the next four years broken down by year?

Answer:

The estimated budget for the refuse collection services (including the recycling collections) for the next 4 years as are as follows:

2016/17 - £7.015m

2017/18 - £6.793m

2018/19 - £6.493m

2019/20 - £4.335m

These estimates take into account the proposed new savings to 2019/20 and do not include transport and waste disposal costs.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE

"Clean Street"

Question:

What is the budget for street cleaning for the next four years broken down by year?

Answer:

The estimated budget for the street cleaning services for the next 4 years as are as follows:

2016/17 - £6.803m

2017/18 - £6.803m

2018/19 - £6.628m

2019/20 - £6.047m

These estimates take into account the proposed new savings to 2019/20 and do not include transport and waste disposal costs.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN

"Dementia Care"

Question:

Can you give a breakdown of how many special dementia care nurses are currently employed in Birmingham City Council residential care homes across Birmingham?

Answer:

None. Nurses are usually only employed in nursing care homes and BCC only has residential homes in its portfolio.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

"Anybody Home"

Question:

In light of the Guardian's investigation revealing how more than 22,000 homes have been 'long term vacant' for more than six months in London alone, with more than 1,100 of them empty for over a decade, and with building on the Greenbelt proposals in mind, how many properties in Birmingham have been classed as 'long term vacant (over six months), what is the breakdown per ward and length of time, and does the Member consider that with this potential availability, the "building only in exceptional circumstances" measure has not been met for building upon Birmingham's protected Green belt areas?

Answer:

There are 9,451 vacant dwellings In Birmingham. Of these, 5,902 have been vacant for six months or more. The breakdown by ward is set out in the table below:

Ward	Number of Vacant	Number vacant for 6 months or
	Properties	more
Acocks Green	234	136
Aston	221	117
Bartley Green	123	80
Billesley	145	96
Bordesley Green	169	131
Bournville	210	144
Brandwood	131	95
Edgbaston	597	241
Erdington	252	168
Hall Green	169	120
Handsworth Wood	236	157
Harborne	329	197
Hodge Hill	157	110
Kings Norton	137	90

Kingstanding	105	62
Ladywood	919	481
Longbridge	143	96
Lozells and East Handsworth	295	215
Moseley and Kings Heath	334	202
Nechells	539	151
Northfield	162	98
Oscott	157	120
Perry Barr	191	124
Quinton	152	106
Selly Oak	326	229
Shard End	128	98
Sheldon	131	87
Soho	297	220
South Yardley	213	151
Sparkbrook	184	139
Springfield	239	174
Stechford and Yardley North	189	142
Stockland Green	312	217
Sutton Four Oaks	205	142
Sutton New Hall	162	110
Sutton Trinity	203	139
Sutton Vesey	235	174
Tyburn	136	100
Washwood Heath	186	137
Weoley	198	106

(Council Tax record. January 2016.)

In assessing the capacity of the city to accommodate new housing, full account has been taken of the contribution that bringing vacant dwellings back into use could make, and an allowance of 1,000 dwellings arising from a reduction in vacancies is included in the city's housing supply.

With a need for 89,000 additional homes over the period 2011-31 and a supply of just 46,100 including the allowance for vacant dwellings being brought back into use it was necessary to review the boundary of the green belt to accommodate a further 5,000 homes. With vacant dwellings already having been taken into account and there still being a significant shortfall in supply, the exceptional circumstances were demonstrated.

Even with the green belt land release there is still a shortfall of 38,000 dwellings. This is far greater than the number of vacant dwellings in the city, so theoretically, if every vacant dwelling was brought back into use, the exceptional circumstances which led to the green belt review would still apply as there would still be a shortage of land to meet housing needs.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR SUE ANDERSON

"Reduce Number of Play Areas"

Question:

Budget heading SN13 proposes reducing the number of play areas. Could the Cabinet Member indicate how many play areas are likely to close as a result of this policy, indicating their location where possible?

Answer:

The City's play areas have been reviewed against a number of criteria including cost of repairs, vandalism and play value. An external bi-annual safety assessment is also being conducted and the results of this will be added to the review to develop the list for potential disposal.

Officers will write to each of the affected Ward Councillors as part of the consultation process before a final list is presented in a Cabinet Member Report for approval.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

"8 acres of Parks Land to Housing a year"

Question:

The budget and business plan proposes transferring eight acres of parks land to housing a year. Could the Cabinet Member indicate whether the 32 acres of land needed for this policy, over the next four years, has been identified? If so, where are they, if not, how will they be identified?

Answer:

The sites that have currently been declared surplus are listed below. These sites have been identified and passed to Property Services for disposal. We constantly review our land portfolio working with Planning Officers and we will identify additional sites for potential disposal. These proposals will then go through a prescribed consultation process before being added to the list.

The sites are:

Wychbury Road Allotments, Bartley Green 2.5 Acres Dawberry Fields Allotments, Selly Oak 5.44 Acres Garwood Road Allotments, Stechford and Yardley North 2.33 Acres.