
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 7 February 2012 Order Paper

Agenda Item

7 The Budget and Corporate Plan 2012/13

- The attached *procedural note for dealing with the budget* provides supporting information to accompany the report circulated with the Council agenda.

10(b) Written Questions (Standing Order 16.11.3)

1. By Councillor C Pond of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

'If, by the time the new Central Management System for Street Lighting is fully functional, the Cabinet Member will have negotiated with the electricity suppliers an actual usage tariff rather than a block per lamp rate for full or part night lighting, and if so, what she estimates the savings will be per year for such a system'

2. By Councillor B Aspinell of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

'One of my constituents sent an email to you on 1 November 2011 regarding the decision you made in response to a petition of over 2,500 signatures concerning the school crossing at Tabors Corner in Shenfield; she confirmed her email in a letter.

In those communications the resident raised some issues, and concludes by saying "I look forward to hearing from you soon" and it is my understanding that she is still awaiting a reply. Another copy of the original email has been provided to your office. Is it your intention to reply to her?'

3. By Councillor J Whitehouse of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

'The Portfolio Holder may be aware that Essex County Council's criteria for vehicle crossings (dropped kerbs) take no account of the impact of new vehicle crossings on other residents in the area. Indeed, I was specifically informed in relation to an issue I took up for a constituent that Essex County Council Highways "cannot refuse [a dropped kerb] because of interference to other highway users' parking requirements."

Does the Portfolio Holder agree that it is absurd that the Council's criteria do not take account of the wider impact of the installation of dropped kerbs, especially in areas of parking stress, and will she undertake to review the current criteria taking into account examples from other authorities which do consider this issue?'

4. By Councillor J Whitehouse of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

'The Epping Parking Review was signed off by the Portfolio Holder in July 2011. On 24 January 2012 the yellow lines and the signs relating to the parking restrictions were due to start being installed, but the contractors are making very slow progress. When they didn't appear on 25 January, a resident phoned the contact number and was told that the contractors don't come if rain is forecast. Residents also reported they worked only 2 hours on Friday 26 January. In addition, there were insufficient early warning signs of the work (dated the day the work was to start) so that many commuters parked in the road, as usual.

Is the Portfolio Holder satisfied that the contractor is delivering an efficient and capable service to the residents of Epping, and why was there such a delay between the sign off in July and the start of the installation in January? '

5. By Councillor J Deakin of the Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games.

'I understand that a public meeting was held recently at the Maltese Road site of Columbus College (which is now based in Partridge Avenue, Chelmsford). At that meeting discussions took place about the use of the Maltese Road site for the further educational needs of the College's post 19 pupils. It was stated that these students should

continue in education between the ages of 19 – 25yrs old to give them every opportunity; because of their needs they do not transfer to Adult Services until they reach the age of 25.

Can I have the Cabinet Member's views on this please?

6. By Councillor D Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme.

'How much money has Essex County Council spent on Consultants and Interim Staff from April 2009 to the end of December 2011? Would you please provide a separate figure for Consultants and Interim Staff.

How much has the County Council paid out in redundancy payments to staff between April 2009 and December 2011?'