ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 12 July 2011 Order Paper

Agenda Item

9 Report of Cabinet Issues. The Essex Transport Strategy (as referred to in item 2: Adoption of a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Essex) is attached.

14(b) Questions (Standing Order 17.11.3)

1. By Councillor John Baugh of the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Community Wellbeing.

'There has been much discussion on a national and local level concerning the funding of dementia services. In this regard could the Cabinet Member advise on the total cost to Essex County Council of caring for people with dementia who occupy dementia beds in care homes within the county and what percentage this represents of overall expenditure on people with dementia?

What financial saving could be realised – for re-distribution on care in dementia patients' own homes – if entry to a care home was universally delayed by two months?'

2. By Councillor David Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

Brentwood was one of the first Borough Councils in Essex to embrace the Highways Localism project three years ago. The initial budget for Brentwood was £2.5 million, but that has now shrunk down to £129,275 for this year's allocation. Out of this £129,275 only £38,575 is available to spend on locally determined schemes. If the Localism agenda is going to be taken seriously in places like Brentwood, what steps are the County Council going to take to ensure that a realistic funding stream is put in place to deliver the schemes that have been outstanding for sometime?

3. By Councillor David Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

Essex had 3,000 over running road works last year. How much was collected from the utility companies in fines? Was the County Council partly to blame for any of the problems? What steps has the County Council put in place to address this issue going forward?

4. By Councillor Mike Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

On 22 February I presented a petition to the Chairman of the Council, requesting a pedestrian crossing in New Nabbotts Way, Springfield, Chelmsford.

The petition was duly passed to the Cabinet office and acknowledged by the Governance Officer by letter on 31 March.

On 11 May my constituent received a letter from Customer Liaison Team, but not copied to me, saying that they no longer deal with such highways improvement requests where a Parish Council exists, as that is a matter for them.

On 1 June I wrote back querying that assertion and asking for some flexibility where a local Member supports such a request for a highways improvement.

On 13 June at the Chelmsford Localities Panel, as I had not received a reply, I raised the issue with the Highways representative who requested copies of the correspondence in order to pursue the matter for me. These were provided that day.

As of to-day's date I have received no further communication, or indeed since 31 March.

My question therefore is: now that 20 weeks has elapsed since handing in the petition does the Cabinet Member agree that this delay in communicating with a Member is unacceptable and will she urgently pursue the matter?

5. By Councillor Mike Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Education and The 2012 Games

Would the Cabinet Member inform me of the number of Science, Mathematics and Literacy Consultants (formerly known as Advisors) who will be made redundant from 1st August, and how many more, including Early Years Consultants, will be made redundant from April 2012?