



Council Meeting  
Wednesday 23 January 2019

Public and Member Questions  
and Responses



Derby City Council



**COUNCIL – 23 January 2019**  
**PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Subject</b>
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**Public Questions**

<b>A</b>	Gaurav Pandey	Councillor Smale	Highways maintenance
<b>B</b>	Doug Lumley	Councillor M Holmes	A52 completion date and project cost
<b>C</b>	Brendan Connelly	Councillor M Holmes	Accessible housing
<b>D</b>	Simon Bacon	Councillor Smale	Waste Treatment Plant noise impact
<b>E</b>	Dorothy Skrytek	Councillor Smale	Carbon dioxide figure at the waste treatment plant
<b>F</b>	Brendan Connelly	Councillor Smale	Nottingham Road cemetery
<b>G</b>	Simon Bacon	Councillor Smale	Contaminated waste disposal

**Councillor Questions**

<b>H</b>	Councillor Repton	Councillor Smale	Car parking charges
<b>I</b>	Councillor Skelton	Councillor M Holmes	E-bikes scheme
<b>J</b>	Councillor Naitta	Councillor Grimadell	Build date for leisure facilities
<b>K</b>	Councillor Care	Councillor Smale	Waste Plant assessment report
<b>L</b>	Councillor Peatfield	Councillor Smale	Current position at Sinfin Waste Plant
<b>M</b>	Councillor Raju	Councillor Grimadell	Grant awarded to DHA
<b>N</b>	Councillor Shanker	Councillor Poulter	Sinfin Waste Plant
<b>O</b>	Councillor Rawson	Councillor M Holmes	Assembly Rooms refurbishment
<b>P</b>	Councillor Bayliss	Councillor M Holmes	Final phase of revised plans for Alvaston District Centre
<b>Q</b>	Councillor Skelton	Councillor M Holmes	E-bikes scheme future plans
<b>R</b>	Councillor Care	Councillor M Holmes	Access and air quality at the Royal Derby Hospital and through Littleover
<b>S</b>	Councillor Peatfield	Councillor M Holmes	Subsidy for Assembly Rooms
<b>T</b>	Councillor Shanker	Councillor Grimadell	Feasibility study for Leisure Water facility
<b>U</b>	Councillor Rawson	Councillor M Holmes	Assembly Rooms subsidy
<b>V</b>	Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Grimadell	The future of Alvaston Library
<b>W</b>	Councillor Skelton	Councillor Smale	Fly-tipping legislation
<b>X</b>	Councillor Peatfield	Councillor M Holmes	Public Consultation for the Assembly Rooms refurbishment
<b>Y</b>	Councillor Care	Councillor M Holmes	Touring shows performance requirements
<b>Z</b>	Councillor Peatfield	Councillor Grimadell	Ice Rink funding



# Public Questions



**a) Question from Gaurav Pandey to Councillor Smale**

**The start of the roads in Boulton ward are getting worse day by day. Field Lane and Holbrook Road are in very bad shape at the moment. Residents want to know if there are any plans to resurface these roads and by when?**

Boulton Ward has seen significant investment in recent years, with over £0.5m spent in 2017/18 alone. There are no immediate plans to treat these particular roads. Boulton Neighbourhood Board have reviewed priority locations for footway and road maintenance to be considered for treatment in 2019/20 and not included the streets you've mentioned. The streets put forward are: (but no guarantee that all will be completed)

- Footway Maintenance - Shalfleet Drive, Compton Close, Brading Close, Thorness Close
- Carriageway Maintenance - Matthew Street, Bembridge Drive, Shalfleet Drive, Thorness Close, Harvey Road, Boulton Lane, junction of Stanley Road and Harvey Road by traffic lights

Whilst Holbrook Road would benefit from a surface treatment now, Field Lane has been inspected and assessed as a lower priority. In Boulton Ward alone, there are approximately 40 roads needing some form of treatment now and a further 125 roads needing some form of maintenance in the next 3-5 years. This is also applied to the footways, with approximately 107 footways needing maintenance now and a further 50 in the next 3-5 years. This again is also applied to the 16 other wards across the city.

We ask the Neighbourhood Boards to assist us with identifying local priorities as we simply cannot do them all with the available funding. They are recommending locations and effectively escalating it up the long list of streets requiring treatment. All sites put forward by Neighbourhood Boards are being reviewed now and a final shortlist will be approved by Council Cabinet in March 2019.

**b) Question from Doug Lumley to Councillor M Holmes**

**What is the current status of the A52 project, in terms of:**

- 1. The projected completion date, and,**
- 2. The anticipated final cost of the project?**

Project management and engineering design resources have been significantly strengthened and are supported by independent technical experts to provide assurance on the delivery of the scheme.

A revised set of drawings has been issued and our contractor is currently working through these with assistance from the design team to provide a more robust cost estimate and a revised programme.

Our contractor aims to report back to the Council at the end of January.

Once validated, we will then be in a position to confirm the estimated project completion date and estimated final scheme cost. All of this work will be completed as robustly and quickly as possible.



**c) Question from Brendan Connelly to Councillor M Holmes**

**How many two bedroom or more for disabled people bungalows/ground floor flats were let in the last two years by Derby City Council/Derby Homes?**

Between 1 January 2017 and 1 January 2019, 122 properties with 2 or more bedrooms identified as suitable for disabled people were let through Derby Homefinder. Derby Homefinder is used to advertise properties for all social housing landlords in Derby. The 122 are from all landlords that use Derbyhomefinder. Of the 122, 92 were Derby City Council/Derby Homes properties and let by Derby Homes.

**d) Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Smale**

**The Sinfen waste incineration plant Community Liaison Group is chaired by Councillor Jonathan Smale as Cabinet Member for waste in the City. This is a group made up of plant representatives, Council and resident members. The residents of Normanton and Sinfen wards have suffered excess noise from the facility but the plant representatives refuse requests from resident members who are part of the CLG for gathered noise data to be shared prior to a proposed meeting in late February.**

**As Chair of the CLG why is Councillor Smale allowing the plant representatives, who provide a waste service to the Council, to withhold data on noise impacts from the council tax payers of Derby?**

At the last CLG meeting it was agreed that we would cover noise as a special topic at the next meeting, it was stated that we would need someone to talk the group through the data that has been collected.

The noise data is complex and needs a full explanation, RRS have made arrangements for this data to be properly presented to the CLG, by ICL's retained noise consultants Spectrum, at the next CLG meeting scheduled for 25 Feb 2019.

**e) Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Councillor Smale**

**The Derbyshire plastics/biomass incinerator in Sinfin Lane, was estimated, by the developer Resource Recovery Solutions, to produce 4.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in the 25 years of 'operation'. As plastics (bluebin) and biowaste/biomass (brownbin) collections are being dismantled, this means the 4.3 million tonnes is an underestimate, as more 'organics' and 'calorifics' are to be destroyed (as per the contract). What is the latest carbon dioxide figure?**

Derby City Council are currently introducing a free Garden Waste Service to Derby residents and will soon be looking at the recycling provision within the inner City wards with a view to improve recycling rates.

This 4.3Mt figure cannot be updated until the plant is in full operation, and all the elements in the calculation can be revalidated based on latest data e.g on latest waste composition data, and actual net power output (i.e export, less plant's own usage. At this point the 4.3Mt figure is the most accurate estimate that is available.

**f) Question from Brendan Connelly to Councillor Smale**

**Why has there been no work started on the new toilets at Nottingham Road Cemetery?**

Plans to build a new office and toilet block configuration have been explored but were considered too costly. We are now in the process of obtaining designs and quotations to consider the feasibility of refurbishing the existing toilet block at Nottingham Road Cemetery, and to date we have received one design and quotation. Subject to funding, work is planned to commence in the summer.

**g) Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Smale**

**The blue bin recycling contractor Biffa decides what constitutes contamination in the collected waste the Council sends to its plant on Victory Road. It then sends that contamination to its own landfill site at great cost to the Council. What specific checks are in place in this contract that are carried out by the Council so that the residents of Derby can be confident that only genuine contaminated waste is disposed of in this way?**

Contamination is found in many forms. More common causes of contamination are plastic bags and films, or bagged waste. Although a wide range of household items which cannot be recycled are often found, such as mirrors, pillows, duvets, hoses, children's toys, nappies, food and electrical items as a few examples. The worst of the contamination, often the larger items are removed at Victory Road before being taken to be reprocessed into Refuse Derived Fuel. We receive regular updates and photographic evidence from site staff and Council officers visit regularly to view the material and the contamination extracted.



# Councillor Questions





#### **h) Question from Councillor Repton to Councillor Smale**

**Outside of District Centres are there any plans to introduce any other additional car parking charges in the city?**

It is prudent for the Council to regularly review parking in the City particularly as a response to issues raised from residents and businesses. In relation to district centres, the proposal is only to consider areas where restrictions, with or without charges, would have a positive impact.

Neighbourhood boards and ward Councillors regularly request the investigation of parking issues and some may lead to proposals for restrictions or charges. The implementation of any scheme on the public highway requires a Traffic Regulation Order and there is a statutory process for consultation.

With regard to on-street parking our aim is to manage the use of the road network to ensure the safe flow of traffic and provide appropriate parking opportunities. Legislation requires all local authorities to ensure that there is a road safety or traffic management reason to introduce charges.

In many areas issues related to inappropriate parking may be resolved by introducing restrictions, which could be yellow lines, or residents parking schemes, where residents request and support their introduction. In others a blend of restrictions and charging may be used to make junctions safer and to encourage turnover of spaces, which in turn can be good for businesses.

**i) Question from Councillor Skelton to Councillor M Holmes**

**E-Bikes have been operating in Derby for about six months, how well is the scheme working?**

My view is that the E-Bike scheme is working very well.

**j) Question from Councillor Naitta to Councillor Grimadell**

**Liberal Democrat's in 2009 launched the £50 Million sports strategy to build the velodrome and a 50 metre swimming pool, the velodrome was built but Derby still has no swimming pool. 10 years on can you give the residents of Derby a firm commitment of a date when the build will commence?**

The Administration very much supports the need for new swimming facilities in Derby. The next steps for the new Swimming Pool Complex will be brought to the Cabinet meeting in February, which will have in it the proposed timeline and date for the commencement of construction.

Following a recent feasibility study to look at enhancing the leisure water, aimed at making it more attractive to families, the preferred option for the Administration to deliver includes a play structure elevation, two flumes, an exciting wave generating 'wow' ball, play structure, a multi-slide and a wave rider as well as the original facility mix including the much anticipated 50 metre swimming pool.

**k) question from Councillor Care to Councillor Smale**

**When will the assessment report on the Waste Plant be available?**

The commissioned technical report is in the final stages and should be received by the Councils imminently. Once we have had the opportunity to review the contents, this will obviously help shape any recommendations going forward.

**I) Question from Councillor Peatfield to Councillor Smale**

**The incinerator contract long stop date of 30 September 2018 is now almost 4 months gone. Can you confirm if all required tests have been passed and that the plant is fully functioning?**

The plant has not yet passed its acceptance tests and assessment is still being carried out by the Independent Certifier. We are aware of further remedial works following planned downtime before Christmas and the plant is not fully up and running. As of (23 Jan) Lines 2 and 3 are running on waste with a throughput of circa 6tph. Line 1 is currently burning on oil whilst ICL wait for drum conductivity to fall. It is hopeful, that Line 1 will be in a position to burn waste tomorrow (24 Jan). The turbine remains off awaiting steam conductivity to come into specification for the machine.

**m) Question from Councillor Raju to Councillor Grimadell**

**Will the cabinet member for Leisure Culture and Tourism provide a breakdown of the total grant awarded to DHA for management of the 10 CMLs as well as an anticipated timescale to achieve the required savings as approved by Cabinet in 2017.**

The breakdown of the original total grant awarded to DHA for the management of the CML's is:

Operating costs (main grant) - £120k a year

Pump Priming - £90k over 4 years

Local Infrastructure Delivery Organisation - £24,750 – one off payment in year 1.

The pump priming figure will be increased as part of a new grant award arrangement currently being agreed with DHA resulting from the Cabinet decision made in December 2018.

It is anticipated that the required savings will be achieved in financial year 20/21.

**n) Question from Councillor Shanker to Councillor Poulter**

**As previously stated, will the Leader once again assure me and the residents that I represent in Sinfin and Osmaston that he will immediately intervene if there is any risk of any harm to any person caused by the Sinfin Incinerator?**

All emissions resulting from the operation of the Sinfin plant are constantly monitored, recorded and reported in line with environmental conditions of the contract.

In the very unlikely event that there is any evidence of harmful emissions from the plant, which expert advice from the environment agency confirms would cause a significant risk of any harm to any person, we would immediately intervene.

**o) Question from Councillor Rawson to Councillor M Holmes**

**What professional advice was taken from officers and industry experts which informed your manifesto pledge to refurbish the Assembly Rooms at a cost of £10 million?**

**Why were your figures so wildly inaccurate given the actual cost is £24 million just to undertake some cosmetic works to the appearance of the building, and do you agree this invalidates any mandate from the electorate?**

Whilst in opposition, we took the advice available and provided to us by officers during a Labour council administration.

If you believe that our plan is merely to undertake cosmetic works then you are badly mistaken.



**p) Question from Councillor Bayliss to Councillor M Holmes**

**The Council has the revised plans for Alvaston district centre and I have been told that the earliest the final phase will be started is 2022. Is this correct?**

The timing of any public realm works in the District Centre is subject to agreement with the developers at Boulton Moor for highway capacity improvements, including a potential widening of London Road in the District Centre.

A key barrier to unlocking development at Boulton Moor is the creation of a new primary school, and DCC is seeking Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) money to fund this. Planning permission needs to be concluded and a primary school constructed prior to any occupation of the new houses - the timescale for this is expected to be at least 18 months.

Any delays to this would impact on housing delivery, with a knock on effect on delivering the highway capacity improvements and therefore the district centre improvements.

We currently expect it will be at least 2020/21.

**q) Question from Councillor Skelton to Councillor M Holmes**

**Are there any plans to extend the E-Bikes to cover areas just outside of the city boundary such as Stenson Fields, Findern, Boulton Moor, the South Derbyshire part of Heatherton, the Radbourne Lane development, Quarndon, and Breadsall?**

First and foremost, I would very much like to see the expansion of e-bike hubs across Derby's suburbs before considering how neighbouring authorities may be able to support an expansion beyond the current City boundary.

**r) Question from Councillor Care to Councillor M Holmes**

**Traffic levels are predicted to increase on the ring road and between Mickleover and Littleover, as a result of the actions to improve air quality in Stafford Street. What predicted change will this have on access to, and air quality at, the Royal Derby Hospital and through Littleover Village from the added traffic flows?**

The traffic management measures have been proposed to allow Derby to achieve compliance with the legal limit on NO<sub>2</sub> in Stafford Street, the one area of exceedance. These changes will not, and legally cannot, produce exceedances on any other street.

The latest analysis suggests that the re-routing traffic will primarily use Uttoxeter Old Road and the southern part of the inner ring road (Lara Croft Way). There is no growth identified on the outer ring road. The impact on Uttoxeter Road, and the route to the Hospital is unlikely to change. The route through Pastures Hill and Littleover also has no growth, as a result of the Stafford Street management plan.

The implementation of the Stafford Street scheme will have some negative impacts on journey times, however, we will be asking Government to fully fund a dynamic urban traffic control system as part of achieving compliance.

This system will provide some mitigation for journey times, allowing management of a wider area of the road network to respond to changes in demand and day-to-day traffic volumes, as well as ensuring that the NO<sub>2</sub> levels can be achieved in Stafford Street.

The traffic management scheme deals directly with the area of exceedance and the testing shows that it has a lower impact in terms of re-routing traffic than a city centre chargeable access scheme would have. The traffic management scheme also avoids the negative impact on business costs and households which would be associated with a chargeable access restriction.

The Council is legally obliged to take action on NO<sub>2</sub>, and the preferred option is the most proportionate approach to solve the issue in Derby.

**s) Question from Councillor Peatfield to Councillor M Holmes**

**What is the projected subsidy for the refurbished Assembly Rooms?**

The projected subsidy for the Assembly Rooms is identified in the Council Cabinet report for the project on 12th December 2018 Item 10.

The relevant paragraphs are 7.2 and 7.3.

**t) Question from Councillor Shanker to Councillor Grimadell**

**Why hasn't the Cabinet Member published the full findings of the £95,000 feasibility study into an enhanced Leisure Water facility at Moorways?**

The key information from the impact assessment report was published by the media. Key information from the draft feasibility study report builds on this information and the latest proposals in relation to the enhanced leisure water for the new Swimming Pool Complex will be in the report going to the Cabinet meeting in February.

The preferred enhanced leisure water option for the Administration to deliver includes a play structure elevation, two flumes, an exciting wave generating 'wow' ball, play structure, a multi-slide and a wave rider as well as the original facility mix including the much anticipated 50 metre swimming pool.

**u) Question from Councillor Rawson to Councillor M Holmes**

**Why does cabinet support the option to refurbish the Assembly Rooms, which requires an ongoing revenue subsidy from the council tax payer when Councillor Holmes is on record as saying that leisure venues should not be subsidised, or operated by local authorities? Furthermore, why has Cabinet chosen a subsidised model when a better value for money option which required no revenue subsidy from council tax payers was already prepared and ready to be delivered?**

Cabinet has chosen the option that minimises the amount that the Council has to borrow to fund the works and the option that will be open quickest, therefore generating earlier economic benefits.

A financial model prepared by officers shows that the annual revenue cost, once the venue has reached 'steady state' position, is projected to be lower for the enhanced Assembly Rooms option than the new build Music and Performance Venue.

**v) Question from Councillor Bayliss to Councillor Grimadell**

**Can the Cabinet member confirm that after having the review of the Library plan that there are no plans to close Alvaston Library or indeed turn it into a CML?**

I can confirm that following the completion of the CMLs Implementation Review, carried out last year, this is still the case; there are no plans to transition Alvaston Library to a Community Managed Library. There was never any proposal to close Alvaston Library.

**w) Question from Councillor Skelton to Councillor Smale**

**In light of the recent changes in the law regarding fly-tipping, how does Derby City Council plan to use these new powers?**

The new powers, introduced on 7 January 2019, are being reviewed by officers now.

As I'm sure you are aware, but for the benefit of our councillor colleagues, they allow for fixed penalties to be served on homeowners who do not properly dispose of their household waste. There are some considerations to take in to account before they are introduced, such as the level of charges applied and a process for considering representations from those issued with a charge. This is the work being undertaken at the moment.

The new powers will complement the existing powers already being undertaken by our public protection team, which has been well received throughout Derby.



**x) Question from Councillor Peatfield to Councillor M Holmes**

**What methods did you use to carry out public consultation for the 24million refurbishment of the Assembly Rooms?**

Many thousands of local people have taken part in public engagement and surveys both political and non political. There were extensive debates both within council, with the public and via the press.

A series of engagement meetings also took place as part of the feasibility study to discuss the options for refurbishing and enhancing the Assembly Rooms.

**y) Question from Councillor Care to Councillor M Holmes**

**What advice have you taken, and what conclusions have you come to, regarding the letter listed as being sent by Selladoor to all Councillors, about the requirements of performance venues for touring shows which highlighted a series of short-comings that the Assembly Rooms would still have after the proposed refurbishment?**

I believe they have fundamentally misunderstood what is being proposed in regard to the refurbishment and reopening of the Assembly Rooms.

We are not and have never, at any point, suggested building or providing a theatre in Derby. Therefore the context of the constructive feedback and opinion sent to all councillors by their Chief Finance Officer is based on a context that is not relevant to the conference, events and performance venue we are delivering.

Previous work has indicated that to remodel the Assembly Rooms to deliver a theatre style layout with full height fly tower would cost over £45million.

I wish Selladoor every success for the future in providing theatre shows and managing suitable venues that fit their chosen market and expertise.

**z) Councillor Peatfield to Councillor Grimadell**

**How was the December 2018 Ice rink funded?**

In 2018 the ice rink was funded by sponsorship income and from the Council's revenue budget allocated to Christmas activities.

The breakdown of funding for the Ice Rink in 2018 was:

£10,000 from sponsorship from the Cathedral Quarter Business Improvement District

£16,666 from sponsorship income, which is being pursued by the Council from 3aaa's

£36,334 from the Council's revenue budget allocated to Christmas activities.