



Council Meeting
Wednesday 23 September 2020

Public and Councillor Questions
and Responses



Derby City Council

COUNCIL – 23 September 2020
PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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B	Emily Lonsdale	Cllr Williams	Access to IT equipment for young people
C	Nathalie Hollingworth	Cllr Barker	Process for consideration of complaints against councillors
D	Alison Martin	Cllr M Holmes	Markeaton Park tree felling
E	Timothy Prosser	Cllr Wood	Moorways opening date and project cost
F	Michael Siveyer	Cllr M Holmes	Midland Hotel planning regulations
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AA	Cllr Evans	Cllr M Holmes	Cycle lanes
BB	Cllr A Graves	Cllr Atwal	Fly-tipping incident involving taxi driver
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Public Questions

a) Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Cllr Smale

Derby and South Derbyshire Friends of the Earth have evidence that allotments are being rented with the sole purpose of bringing waste furniture, plastics, tyres etc, for burning, onto the sites. Allotment gardening is carried out at a bare minimum on the plots concerned, as that is not their main purpose. Items for burning, which are being brought onto the sites in trucks, include broken pallets, foam filled furniture, tyres and plastics. The pollution from burning these items is gross and the smoke nuisance will affect residents and drift across roads. This has also been brought to the attention of allotment presidents. We ask why the city council cannot ban ALL burning of waste resources, on allotments across the city? The burning season starts in October.

On Council owned allotment sites, it is not permitted to burn plastics, rubber, foam, household rubbish or painted materials on the premises. Burning any waste is discouraged and the number of bonfires should be kept to a minimum. Allotment associations and plot holders are required to use the allotment garden for that purpose. A condition of the tenancy is to keep the allotment garden well cultivated and in good condition.

There are a number of privately owned allotment sites in the city which may have different arrangements regarding fires. If there is a problem with fires at a specific allotment site along the lines set out in the question, please provide further details and any evidence held and this will be investigated.

The Council works proactively with the allotment associations and with plot holders to provide information about their legal obligations regarding bonfires and encourage alternative waste disposal methods such as composting. As part of our air quality action plan, one of our proposals is to develop an up to date Bonfire Policy, with the aim of setting enhanced restrictions on open burning, supported through a communication and engagement campaign.

b) Question from Emily Lonsdale to Cllr Williams

My children have returned to school this week and talking to other parents about lockdown experiences a distressing number have struggled due to not having access to appropriate computer equipment. What is the council doing to ensure that no child in Derby will be left in this situation if schools are forced to close again in the coming months?

Thank you for your question, Emily, and as a parent with school aged children I do appreciate what a challenging time it was for parents and children during lockdown, and how important it is for children to be back in school so they can catch up with their learning and see their friends.

From the beginning of the lockdown, the Education and Skills Team have communicated to all schools and academies on a daily basis with bulletins including up-to-date summaries of government guidance and information about what the Local Authority is doing to support safe educational provision for Derby children. School leaders have managed a combination approach to the provision of education in the home – those families who do not have access to computer equipment and/or the internet have had home learning packs delivered or collected so that learning can continue. This has been augmented by on-line opportunities using a wide range of online resources. School leaders have been aware from the outset that many Derby families do not have technology in their homes that can be used to supplement to paper resources. Some families do not have any computers at all and may rely on their mobile phone if they have data left on it. Some have one computer but several children. Some have a computer but no internet.

The government responded to this need with the promise of laptops for children who have a social worker, care-leavers and disadvantaged children in Year 10. Although welcome, this was not enough. For example, 72 laptops were provided to disadvantaged students in the four LA maintained secondary schools but the numbers of eligible students in each school totalled 175. In contrast, 1255 laptops were supplied to the LA for children with a social worker and care-leavers. The Education and Skills team have worked closely with Children's Social Care, the Virtual Headteacher and the LA IT team to manage ownership agreements and to coordinate the collection of laptops by schools and academies for these vulnerable children to use, where their social worker has agreed. The project team continues to meet and to manage the next stage of the process for pupils transferring to their secondary school at the end of Year 6 or to a sixth form or college at the end of Year 11. This will help but it is

important to note that internet access does not accompany the laptops and, despite applying to be involved in the BT internet voucher pilot, Derby has been unsuccessful up to this point.

Taking the disadvantaged Year 10 figures as indicative, we can assume approximately 175 students in each year group apart from Year 11 at secondary school who do not have access to a computer or internet at home. Numbers in primary schools will be similar I am sure.

The Head of Service in Education and Skills has made arrangements for a few headteachers of schools which serve very disadvantaged communities to talk to a DfE research representative to explain the extent of the problem and why the laptops provided so far are well short of the amount needed.

Should there be a local lockdown, headteachers will be able to apply for laptops directly and the DfE have indicated a 2-day turn-around in delivery.

Going forward, the LA team overseeing the delivery of the laptops is continuing its work for the new Year 7 and Year 12 vulnerable children.

Opportunity Area board has 90k to spend on pupils at risk of NEET in schools with careers information and guidance via Careers and Skills Board chaired by the Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills.

The Director of Learning, Inclusion and Skills. is working with Rolls Royce on promoting sponsorship of laptops for pupils possibly via marketing Derby.

c) Question from Nathalie Hollingworth to Cllr Barker

The local councillor complaints process is fundamentally authoritarian and undemocratic because it requires complainants to tick a box to agree that it will accept the council's decision as final as a precondition to complaints being considered, which means that complaints can be dismissed for no good reason. Therefore, would you consider operating democratically to remove this precondition so that the Council has to enter dialogue with the complainant to ensure that meaning is understood, and issues dealt with appropriately to prevent sloppy legal practice?

The procedure for the consideration of complaints against Councillors is available on the Derby City Council website; they are reviewed annually by the Standards Committee and any changes are agreed by Council. The procedure provides a robust and transparent framework within which all complaints against councillors are rigorously and objectively assessed.

All complaints are referred to the Council's Monitoring Officer and are assessed by an Independent Persons Advisory Panel, who provide an initial opinion as to whether the Councillors' Code of Conduct has been breached. The Monitoring Officer will then decide whether the complaint is to be progressed to subsequent stages within the procedure. Both the complainant and the subject member are kept updated throughout this process.

A complaint may be dismissed for a number of reasons, but these include situations where even if the allegation were proven it would not constitute a breach of the councillors' code of conduct or where the subject member has already taken steps to rectify the situation.

I do not consider it appropriate to remove the precondition to which you refer. Complaints must be considered within an agreed process and it is not in the public interest to adopt a procedure where the outcome is left open to negotiation with either the complainant or the subject member.

d) Question from Alison Martin to Cllr M Holmes

Can the Cabinet Member tell me how many trees will be felled near Markeaton Park and in total in order to facilitate the work that is planned on the A38?

The formal examination on the Highways England A38 Grade Separation scheme closed in July followed by a three month period for the inspectors to write their report and make recommendation to the Secretary of State, who then has three months to make a decision on whether to grant planning permission.

As part of the examination process the inspectors considered an in-depth Environmental Impact Study that was undertaken by Highways England in support of their scheme. This had information on vegetation and trees. However, exact numbers and timescales for removal, retention and replacement of trees and vegetation are not confirmed at this stage.

That will be confirmed on the detailed planting plans as the scheme evolves.

I can assure you that we will be looking for adequate compensation for any tree loss, above and beyond that loss.

The Environmental Impact Study is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/a38-derby-junctions/>

e) Question from Timothy Prosser to Cllr Wood

It's great to see progress on the Moorways facility, but can you give us an update on the expected opening date and final cost of the project?

This project is hugely exciting for Derby and construction of the new fifty metre pool and water park at Moorways Sports Village has been underway since the beginning of the year. It has been an unprecedented time with Covid-19, however, the project continues to proceed very well. Completion of the construction of Moorways Sports Village was programmed for December 2021 and we currently hope to open the facility in Spring 2022. The project also remains within the £42million budget.

f) Question from Michael Siveyer to Cllr M Holmes

Could the Council please tell me whether the Midland Hotel, now being used as a hostel, contravenes the Council's own planning regulations? If so, what enforcement measures will you be taking to rectify the matter?

The usage of hotels to temporarily accommodate registered asylum seekers is a Home Office Policy implemented through the UK and administers by its partner SERCO.

When required, the Council will always seek clarification in regard to change of use via our planning department to ensure due process.

g) Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Cllr Poulter

Derby & South Derbyshire Friends of the Earth would like to know why the details of DERT meetings (Derby Economic Recovery Team) are not on the derby gov website and if the related ‘shared energy plant’ mentioned in the press release for DERT, is actually a polluting, high-carbon, energy-inefficient incinerator?

Thank you for your question relating to the Economic Recovery Steering Group and the shared energy generation facilities which form part of the proposed SmartParc food manufacturing development in Derby.

Only meetings of decision-making bodies such as cabinet and committee meetings are required to be posted on the Council website.

The Economic Recovery Steering Group does not have delegated authority to make decisions. These take place through the existing publicly available cabinet approval process.

Due diligence is currently being carried out by the developers of the site to explore the most environmentally friendly and cost-efficient energy solution. Renewable energy sources and sustainable forms of efficient generation are a high priority for this project. Once in use, the shared central energy system will utilise the latest technologies to reduce energy consumption for the Parc’s manufacturing tenants by around 25% versus their current usage, thereby constituting a significant reduction in emissions for the food sector.

There are no plans for the site to house a “polluting, high-carbon, energy-inefficient incinerator”, nor will there be.

h) Question from Nathalie Hollingworth to Cllr Webb

How will the Council act to protect its school children from coronavirus in the following dimensions?

a) On the commute e.g. school lanes as in Duffield, policing the approach and departure outside the school gate (refer to recent news coverage about overcrowding concerns at school gates as this is not the school's responsibility) with particular attention to footpath width, single-file approach and 2m distancing while walking to school and waiting at the gates;

b) Covid testing accessibility – is there a central Derby testing centre (Germany succeeded due to placing testing in all local hospitals), local GP provision or what else?

c) Finally, could all children (including CIC) receive supportive vaccinations such the flu vaccine and Prevenar 13 vaccine (as required by all children attending private schools) as not all children will have received this because it is relatively new and is far superior to its predecessor Prevenar 7 which it can safely supplement – it is a very good respiratory-related vaccine.

Also, please advise any other sensible measures that the council is taking to ensure school children's Covid safety such as banning scooters on the school commute to aid social distancing and accidents?

While we are able currently to visit loved ones, go to pubs and restaurants, there are still vital actions that we can all take to ensure that we remain safe and reduce the risk of catching or passing on the virus.

Let's do the right thing for Derby - everyone across the city can consider the safety of themselves and of fellow Derbyians by ensuring we follow these important guidelines:

- Keep our distance
- Wash our hands
- If we have symptoms, stay home and apply for a test
- Wear a face covering, if we can.

Testing when you need a test - we are keen to encourage citizens to only register for a test if they have one or all of the main COVID-19 symptoms: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to sense of smell or

taste.

There has recently been a strain on testing sites as some people who are suffering from cold-like symptoms registering for a test.

The Council is working in close partnership with all schools, including communicating key national and local COVID 19 messages with a daily communication to schools.

The Council also continues to support schools following the Department for Education's "Guidance for the full opening of schools" issued in July - DfE Guidance - Full opening of schools . (Section 2 - school operations and transport).

All school leaders continue to communicate directly with parents and carers in relation to COVID 19, including managing overcrowding at the start and end of the school day, and transport. All schools have been very carefully planning this, including having senior leaders visible and managing around the school gates. The Council also continues to help and support schools in relation to any emerging issues.

In relation to COVID safety and use of scooters for the school commute, the Council is working closely with all schools. For any travel issues for individual schools, the Council will support, advise and take action as necessary to ensure the safety of our children and young people. All schools continue to send regular communication bulletins to parents and carers on the importance of safe travel.

The Council is working in close partnership with Transport Operators, meeting regularly to manage any issues in relation to dedicated transport for children and young people. This forum is closely monitoring transport matters in the City, following the full opening of schools in recent weeks.

The Council will continue to support to schools, and closely monitor any emerging issues.

Currently COVID testing is available at the drive through centre at Toyota Burnaston, the Pro-Act stadium in Chesterfield and Motorpoint in Nottingham. Postal testing kits are also available via the national portal so that individuals can undertake their own test at home.

We are currently working with the Department of Health and Social Care and Deloitte to place a walk-up testing site close to the City Centre, to improve access

for residents that do not have their own transport.

There is a mobile testing unit that is shared across the City and County, which is usually in one place for 3- 4 days. The unit is next planned to be in Derby at the end of the month (Forrester's Way).

The GPs in the City have a 'red hub' where they see patients with suspected COVID symptoms. They are working with the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure that they are able to test the patients that they see in this clinic.

Prevenar 13

For a child under 2yrs old the vaccine Prevenar 13 is offered from the NHS as part of the childhood immunisation schedule, the same for any child. It replaced Prevenar 7 in 2010/11.

The current immunisation programme of Prevenar-13 is:

Routine immunisation for infants under one year of age:

- a single priming dose of 0.5ml of PCV13 (Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) at 12 weeks of age
- a booster dose of 0.5ml of Prevenar-13 at one year of age (on or after their first birthday) given at the same time as the Hib (haemophilus influenzae type b) /MenC (meningitis C) and 4CMenB (meningitis B) (vaccines to prevent meningitis and septicaemia).and MMR vaccine to prevent measles, mumps, and rubella.

Flu Vaccine:

Children aged 2-11yrs are eligible for the flu vaccine on the NHS as part of the national immunisation schedule. Not all children can have the nasal vaccine and may require the injection. Children in 'at risk groups' are offered the flu vaccine from two years old – no age limit. All children who are within this age group immunisation against flu should be sought via NHS.

i) Question from Timothy Prosser to Cllr Wood

Field Lane Football in Boulton Ward is in desperate need of some new changing room and parking facilities as they have been pretty much swallowed up by the nursery and the football group is growing. I was at a meeting there recently with an interested developer and though it's early days I would like to ask if any progress has been made on this exciting opportunity?

The Council was very recently made aware of an aspiration to develop changing room facilities at Field Lane and arrangements have been made to meet with relevant parties to explore the potential.

Councillor Questions

j) Question from Cllr A W Graves (i) Cllr Willoughby (ii) to Cllr Smale

(i) I wrote to you recently about the restrictive opening hours of Raynesway tip introduced since COVID - 19. You will be aware that the new permit system means people cannot get access for a number of weeks resulting in many people resorting to fly tipping.

Fly tipping is unacceptable at any time and it results in rising costs to the taxpayer both in terms of removing the rubbish which may have a health impact and the unpleasantness of seeing rubbish strewn across out streets and green areas.

My observation of your reply is that it was written by an officer of the council and there has been no political input. To be honest I was expecting a little more resolve from a cabinet member.

Even with the constraints of the government's rules on COVID-19, it appears that neighbouring councils have managed to fully open their centres.

The stance you are taking is negatively impacting Derby, and neighbouring authorities, through increased fly tipping occurrence. Can I ask what you consider is your role is in this process as I really do believe more can be done to increase capacity and help more people dispose of their rubbish legitimately?

(ii) Can you advise what the timescales are for Derby residents to receive a full service so they can get back to normal?

Thank you for your question Councillor Graves - I stand by the original email I sent you dated on 18th September. The email was sent with a full back drop to the situation, I wanted to explain the complex situation that we have with Raynesway.

My involvement with reopening Raynesway has been a top priority when the Secretary of State for Communities instructed all Local Authorities to open up household waste recycling centres.

We knew in Derby we would have a challenge, especially as Raynesway is a small site. We also have our residual waste being disposed of behind the site which added a further complication.

Thank you for your question Cllr Willoughby - No, fly tipping is unacceptable in any form. Currently residents can access booking slots for Raynesway on MiPermit or by contacting Derby City Council on 0333 2006981.

k) Question from Cllr Alan J Graves to Cllr Smale

The roadway on Field Lane, between Holbrook Road and the football pitches, is horrendous to drive on, with large potholes and awful camber. It is not just damaging cars but endangering Boulton and Alvaston residents as well. The budget of a neighbourhood board is not nearly enough to undertake this task. When will the council make our roads drivable?

We are aware that the condition of Field Lane is in need of attention.

The road is inspected on a three-monthly basis and was last seen in early August. The road is undulating and does require a resurfacing treatment, however any urgent defects which affect immediate safety have been programmed for repair or have been completed.

The most recent condition survey also recommends this section is considered for resurfacing, with the section from Holbrook Road up to Shardlow Road also benefiting from a preventative maintenance treatment. However, Field Lane is the single access point for the Snelsmoor Lane development, we would not wish to resurface at this time given the likely damage caused by construction traffic, therefore resurfacing will be on hold until the development is completed.

I) Question from Cllr Willoughby to Cllr Roulstone

Given the potential budget gap of around £20 million for the next financial year, what steps has the Council taken to factor into its financial modelling any additional costs due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and what plans are there to address this?

The Council has reported the financial impact of Covid 19 to Cabinet in June in a report detailing the Council's response to the pandemic and subsequently in September as part of the Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring. The £20 million referred to relates to the 21/22 Financial year and as such includes contains estimates for ongoing demand pressures (for example, Social Care) and the impact on core budgets going forward (for example, income levels and increases in provider costs) arising from the Covid Pandemic.

It is still too early to accurately quantify the impact of any second wave which is expected in 2020/21. However, as a prudent Council we have assumed in our forecasts £11.7 million for Covid related costs for the period September 2020 to March 2021 and £0.9 million of further income losses for the same period.

The Council will be required to set a balanced budget within the budget framework operable at the time. Government is being lobbied nationally for additional flexibilities to allow the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic to be managed over more than one year.

Budget proposals are being developed by the administration as part of the Budget to be issued for consultation later this year following receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

m) Question from Cllr Carr to Cllr Smale

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me, what the current plans are for the Sinfin Waste Plant and what progress (if any) is being made towards a resolution of the situation?

Efforts are ongoing regarding the waste treatment facility at Sinfin.

Work to determine the condition and capability of the facility continues. This is being done through a programme of site condition surveys. This work has been delayed due to Covid-19, although contractors undertaking the condition survey work are being brought back on site, whilst following social distancing guidelines. This work is key to informing the councils' decisions about the future use of the facility.

Discussions with the funders regarding the estimated fair value are ongoing. The estimated fair value is the value of the contract taking into account the rectification costs of the facility and the costs of providing services to meet the contract requirements. This a complex legal and contractual process.

Once the outcome of all this work is known, it will be used to inform the councils' decisions about the future use of the facility.

n) Question from Cllr Evans to Cllr M Holmes

The Assembly Rooms and multi storey car park are now designated to be demolished imminently.

Can the demolition be delayed until a new build scheme is fully in place, and literally ready to build with all Planning and other criteria in place. This will significantly reduce the impact to a minimum of the loss of hundreds of parking spaces right in the heart of Derby city centre. I understand there are alternative car parks but not right in heart of Derby Market Place. We must stimulate and encourage people to be able, easily to visit Derby, not reduce the number of parking spaces, our city and surrounding suburbs are constantly expanding, considerably in recent times, the available parking should reflect this.

I fear we may end up with another "hole in the ground" for many years with the subsequent long-term loss of parking if the Assembly Rooms and multi storey carpark are allowed to be prematurely demolished in haste.

The demolition of the Assembly Rooms will not commence until full planning is secured and the procurement for the work is also completed. A 'hole in the ground' scenario is not acceptable to anyone and that is why work is well advanced in regard to an exciting 'meanwhile' use for the site. I very much look forward to sharing those plans with councillors, the public, businesses and our stakeholders soon.

The 'meanwhile' use for the site will include a number of parking spaces specifically for disabled users but we also have a number of car parks underutilised in the city centre.

We feel it is important to demolish the building for two reasons. Firstly, it will remove any vacant running costs, but most of all it will allow us to regenerate and revitalise this area of the City Centre in the medium and long term.

In relation to retention of the car park, realistically and practically cannot be achieved in isolation of demolition of the Assembly Room itself. Also, we are also encouraging greater use of clean and green transport options as well as the use of public transport. All of this supports the council's climate change and decarbonisation agenda.

As always, you have my assurance that this administration will take a balanced

view in providing adequate parking provision in regard to the city as well as a commitment to deliver sustainable regeneration and infrastructure.

o) Question from Cllr Cooper to Cllr Hussain

Can the Chair of the Adults & Health Scrutiny Review Board offer an insight into the role the board has to play as the council and its partners respond to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on lives of many vulnerable people in Derby, in particular those receiving care in care homes. We need to gain a better understanding of why residents in care homes were faced with greater risk of harm from COVID-19 and what steps were taken to protect them. That is one of the basic functions of this board.

p) Question from Cllr McCristal (i) and Cllr Potter(i) to Cllr Atwal

(i) I welcome the confirmation at the last full council that the Chair of Licensing supports the adoption of the new department of transport Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards in its entirety.

As chair, how important are the formal adoption of these measures to the safety of the public of Derby?

(ii) By adopting the new department of transport Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards, what aspects of Derby City Council's complaints procedure (in relation to Taxi and private hire vehicles and drivers) can be improved?

Public safety and the protection of vulnerable persons is a Council priority. It is important therefore that we consider any suggested measures which will help the Council protect the travelling public, hence my acknowledgement of the Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles and Drivers Standards. Moving forward, a review will need to be undertaken which will be fully debated and considered by Licensing Committee and will likely see changes to current policy and procedure based on and around the contents of those standards. The review will look at our current practices and the measures set out in the standards to ensure that our processes are as effective and efficient as possible, introducing changes where necessary. This is likely to include a review of our existing complaints procedures. Until this review is complete it is impossible for me to anticipate what the committee will decide.

q) Question from Cllr Lind to Cllr Williams

In light of COVID-19 all councils in the UK had to make changes in their home to school transport arrangements. Derby City Council had committed to writing to all effected parents to let them know the travel arrangements for their children, although this did not seem to have happened, leaving many families in the dark, by the evening of the 7th September the Council confirmed they still hadn't even completed travel arrangements.

The Council has been working very closely with school leaders as schools planned the full re-opening of schools for September, and group organisation of children and young people into bubbles, in line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

Working closely with schools, the Council arranged home to school transport matching new transport arrangements in line with school group organisation to ensure children and young people remained safe and travelled in the same "bubble". This included arranging additional transport as necessary.

Similar to all Councils, this was a complex exercise and has only been possible as result of the very close working partnership of school leaders, parents and the Council. The Council was able to arrange transport for all children and young people eligible for home to school transport.

There was communication with the majority of parents. The Council is continuing to strengthen communication by working very closely with Parent Carers Together, other parents and schools. As background information, a new IT system is in the process of being introduced which will help further improve communication.

The Council will continue to work very closely with parents and schools to ensure efficient and effective home to school transport arrangements for our children and young people. This includes listening carefully to parents for their thoughts and ideas to improve home to school transport arrangements.

r) Question from Cllr West to Cllr Wood

Can the Cabinet Member please advise Council as to the effects of COVID-19 related problems on the footfall, attendance, income, and budget for all leisure, culture and tourism related facilities, and activities, including those you have direct or indirect responsibility for.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact upon leisure, culture and tourism, with facilities closing and activities ceasing alongside the national lockdown. More recently some facilities, events and activities have been able to re-open albeit on a phased approach in many instances. As government guidance, industry guidance and customer confidence returns more and more people are returning to use our facilities and take part in activity. Work is ongoing to review the impacts of Covid-19 and this work coincides with updated government and industry guidance alongside the ongoing threat of further lockdowns and a second wave.

This financial year, the entire Leisure, Culture and Tourism budget is forecasting a £3.204m pressure in 20/21 against a net budget of £6.522m. Of this total pressure, £2.66m is estimated to be as a direct result of Covid-19 shutdowns and restrictions.

s) Question from Cllr Shanker to Cllr Poulter

In recent years, there has been a growing and worrying tendency by some politicians to ignore expert, professional advice. We have seen this nationally in recent months and we have seen this locally regarding the future of the assembly rooms. As a result, there is always a price to pay.

In Derby, the price is very high indeed. The cost to the public of the abortive attempts to refurbish the assembly rooms against expert and officer advice is an eye-watering £2.468 million and rising.

At the August cabinet meeting, you - the Leader of the Council was invited to apologise for the dither, delay and indecision that led to many wasted years, no performance venue in the centre of our city and these staggering abortive costs. You refused to accept responsibility or apologise for your group's foolish actions in this matter.

Will you now reconsider your position on this matter, show some humility as well as responsibility, and apologise to the public of Derby?

My position on this subject has not changed.

t) Question from Cllr Hussain to Cllr Webb

Eligibility criteria for receiving help and support from adult care services has already been raised to the highest possible level - critical. In practice, one has to be at risk of imminent risk of harm to qualify for any help from the council. Further cuts to this budget are likely to have a devastating impact on the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Can you provide a reassurance that you are not planning to make further cut to this vital but overstretched service?

Cllr Hussain will be well aware of the funding issues and pressures surrounding adult social care services and particularly now during the pandemic period. The Council has spent an additional £6.5m to support social care in Derby, this has been funded by Central Government. A further £2.8m has been promised for care homes to support infection control activity between now and March next year.

It is highly likely there shall be a significant budget challenge for the Council in the next MTFP. We shall have to explore every option to set a balanced Council budget in 2021/22, as it is our legal duty to do so.

The eligibility criteria for ASC is set nationally through the Care Act 2014. There is no local discretion to vary the eligibility criteria for ASC. So, what I can reassure you is that the adult social care budget shall be set at a level where we can meet the expected level of social care demand in the city to fulfil our statutory duty.

u) Question from Cllr P Pegg to Cllr Smale

Can you please confirm what the total waste tonnages received at the Raynesway Recycling Centre have been for June, July & August 2020 and how these compare to the corresponding period in 2019?

	2019			2020		
	June	July	August	June	July	August
Recycling	1153.89	1361.65	1302.27	250.21	275.09	256.2
Waste	523.39	727.8	808.8	299.36	431.16	430.38

The reduction in tonnage is as a direct result of the revised site layout and working arrangements, which we needed to implement, following the re-opening of the site due to the covid pandemic.

v) Question from Cllr Peatfield to Cllr M Holmes

Can you provide a breakdown of what has been spent so far of the £3m put aside to tackle the Climate Emergency and on what?

The capital funding remains at £3m.

Despite the impact of Covid -19, a Climate Change Officer Group continue to work on a wide range of projects and options to help tackle climate change and our de-carbonisation agenda which are both an important part of our recovery plan.

Significant projects are being worked up and options for the use of the funding can be discussed as part of the agreed Climate Change Working Partnership.

w) Question from Cllr S Khan to Cllr Webb

Would you please confirm how many additional Extra Care Beds have been made available to the City's provision since May 2018 when you became the Cabinet Member for Adult Care & Housing?

The last Extra Care scheme in the City was Parkland View which was completed in 2016. The Council remains firmly committed to providing additional Extra Care accommodation either through direct provision or working with partners.

Indeed, a planning application from a private provider has been submitted for 66 Extra Care units at Kingsway and is currently being considered. This is in addition to 49 units of retirement living accommodation that is also being provided at Kingsway by a separate provider.

x) Question from Cllr Hezelgrave to Cllr Williams

The recent figure given to me for youth unemployment in the City was 20%. What is the current figure, and is it trending upward? What are you doing to get this figure down?

The most recent statistics for Youth Unemployment are as follows:

- DATA JULY 2020- 21% of all on 'Out of Work' benefits in Derby which is the same as across the D2N2 region.
- 16-24 on Universal Credit = 5,285 (July 2020) this is an increase of 2.6% for the month, but an increase of 98% from March 2020
- Clearly this is an increase – something that is being experienced across the country – and something every Councillor should be worried about.

We are doing a huge amount across the Council and with our partners address this:

- Derby City Council now has it's own Employment Hub, which all councillor have received information about and how to refer your residents.
- We have also successfully started the Way2Work Programme along with a number of other partners in the city.
- Working closely with DWP Youth lead and Youth Partnership Manager to ensure we can connect and support to young people, so they are signposted to more intensive support into employment. DCC is working with DWP and Derby College to develop a Youth specialist role, to do exactly that.
- DWP Youth Team have set up a Young Peoples Partnership Meeting – which DCC staff attend with partners across the city.
- We work closely with DWP to support their mapping of support/ provision and the possibility of a front door to provision.
- For our Care Leavers we have set up a Leaving Care development Board with a focus on how to support Care Leavers into education, employment and training

- Kick Start – working to support businesses to provide placements for young people using the national Kick Start scheme.

y) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr Webb

As most years, I understand that the Council intends publicising the NICE / Public Health England advice regarding people taking Vitamin D supplements as part of its autumn public health messaging. What data does the Council (or NHS locally) have on how past campaigns have affected Vitamin D levels of the Derby population? Assuming the past pattern of Vitamin D levels in Derby follows the national trend, how does the Council (and its partners) intend ensuring that this year's campaign reaches more people so that Vitamin D levels in people in Derby fall less during the winter period?

There is currently no data available on Vitamin D at a local authority level as it is not routinely measured or collected, but there is no reason to expect that the residents of Derby differ significantly from the national population. National guidance is for everyone over the age of 5 years to consider taking a daily supplement containing 10µg Vitamin D during the autumn and winter months and, with dark skin or poor sun exposure, throughout the year. There has not been an evaluation of the impact of this recommendation to date.

Local promotion of Vitamin D in previous years has included information at community engagement events, for example warm and well at winter. It is also promoted through commissioned providers, including Health Visitors.

Vitamin D is due to be included as part of the Council's winter messages in relation to 'darker nights' (shorter days and less sun exposure) and COVID-19 (increased time indoors or isolation). These messages will form part of the "Let's do the right thing for Derby" which was launched on Friday. This will allow us to encourage individuals to adopt protective health behaviours as part of an overall effort to remain safe and well during the winter; acknowledging the role of the flu vaccine, well-managed health conditions, taking prescribed medications and supplements. We are also working with Community Action to promote these messages across populations more impacted.

z) Question from Cllr Bettany to Cllr Smale

My question is regarding Matthew Street in the Boulton Ward. Many residents have complained about the lack of drainage during heavy rainfall, it's so bad in fact that one house, no 67, has had water up to the front door, especially when the buses pass by causing a swell. Also, the road surface is in an appalling state in several areas. The Local Board of which I am a member obviously has not got sufficient funds to remedy.

Can the council investigate and act upon a solution to this problem expediently?

The Land Drainage and Flood Defence Team has received no previous records of surface water flooding in this location to date, according to our records. However, we will now add this to our records and arrange an investigation of the drainage provision for the area, particularly near to 67 Matthew Street, to ascertain whether the gullies are functioning as required.

If any defects are found we will identify further what further actions are required and programme this in to our future works accordingly.

With regard to the carriageway surface Matthew Street is inspected on a six-monthly basis. It was last visited in mid-April, where several potholes, mainly at the junction with Harvey Road were identified. It has a lot of undulation from buses, making it a bumpy ride and does require a resurface. It has been recognised as a busy cut through for people to get to and from the ring road. Matthew Street has received a few complaints and it is currently with our Streetpride In House service for consideration, to see if it is possible to resurface using our inhouse plant and skillsets. However, if this is not possible, it will be considered for likely inclusion in 2021/22, using the additional £9m investment awarded for highway maintenance and completed with our external contractors. Any urgent defects which affect immediate safety have been programmed for repair or have already been completed.

aa) Question from Cllr Evans to Cllr Holmes

Across Derby city cycle lanes are rapidly being introduced, although these are welcomed by most there appears to have been little consultation other than of a legal requirement to proceed. These cycle lanes will considerably narrow major artery roads into the city such as London Road from Wilmorton, the result of this will be increased dangers, due to the narrowing of the roads, increased frustration from motorists and larger vehicles such as buses, and inevitable increases in traffic jams.

Can the scheme be suspended with immediate effect subject to a full inquiry of how it was allowed to be rapidly introduced with little consultation, and then fully re-examined with proposals put forward for inclusive consultation involving all relevant groups, councillors and the public?

The temporary measures introduced were part of the Government's Emergency Active Travel Programme via emergency powers which removed the usual pre-scheme consultation.

This directed local authorities to act with urgency and there were extremely challenging timescales for submission and delivery.

It may be useful for you to appreciate that local authorities were not asked to do simple things. The criteria was for schemes that would challenge existing travel behaviour, provide space for active travel, particularly whilst there are practical restrictions on public transport, and to provide more space for safe social distancing.

In Derby, as always under the current administration, we aimed for a balanced approach and it was assessed by the Department for Transport as being, 'particularly strong'.

We also chose to include the review period for the Derby schemes, which was not a condition of the funding.

We did this because are genuinely interested in the reaction and experiences from road users and residents to assess the effectiveness of the schemes and we will be starting to undertake that review soon.

bb) Question from Cllr A W Graves to Cllr Atwal

You may recall my email to you regarding a taxi driver allegedly fly tipping in Derwent Ward. He was caught by a local resident who embarrassed the driver into putting the rubbish back into his car.

You will also know that some Conservative councillors questioned your resolve to deal with the matter by posting on their Facebook page Chaddesden Ward Councillors. Could you explain to the chamber if you have done anything about this?

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

cc) Question from Cllr Lind to Cllr Williams

At the Council's budget setting meeting in February this year, I proposed that the budget was amended to include provision for improvements in the council's SEND ICT processes and systems to improve outcomes for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Council voted in favour and the amendment was carried.

Please can the cabinet member update us with the progress on implementing the new systems?

The system has now been procured and is in the process of being implemented. The main case management system is currently installed in a test environment and the team are working on developing this to facilitate new and improved processes for managing EHC needs assessments and subsequently the maintenance of plans.

The children's portal, which will allow parents and young people to submit requests online, communicate with the team, access their plan and eventually to track the current status of the assessment has also been tested and is being modified to suit local processes.

All elements of the system will be installed into the live environment during October half term allowing for the phased migration of cases to begin in November. All new assessment requests will be managed through the new system from October half term onwards. Plans to engage all partners are in place.

dd) Question from Cllr Shanker to Cllr Poulter

Can you please confirm if the letter you wrote to the Secretary of State responsible for Local Government Reorganisation was as the Leader of the Council or as Leader of the Tory Group in Derby?

The letter, which you have a copy of, clearly states who it was sent by.

ee) **Question from Cllr Peatfield to Cllr Barker**

Please can you provide a breakdown of money spent so far on the Market Hall Project?

Against the approved budget of £11.18m the breakdown of spend to date on the Market Hall scheme is shown in the table below.

Spend as at 21 September 2020	£000s	£000s
Main Contractor – phase 1 construction works including scaffolding, compensation events, site-set-up and preliminaries costs	4,621	
External professional fees	1,091	
Internal professional and project management fees	303	
Compensation to traders – loss of space as a result of scaffolding	37	
Building Control and Planning fees	1	
IT Infrastructure	96	
Purchase of internal lighting	126	
Total Capital Spend		6.275
Associated scheme revenue costs		32
Total Spend		6,307

ff) Question from Cllr Hezelgrave to Cllr Williams

When you undertake the exercise to make savings in your portfolio for next year's budget, on which areas will you wield the axe, and which will you fight to protect?

As Cabinet Member for Children's Services I will always fight to protect services for children and young people. Clearly the Council provides a plethora of statutory services in my portfolio area, and it's important that in any budget process these are protected, as well as ensuring that any unintended consequences of saving proposals in discretionary areas are well understood.

gg) Question from Cllr A W Graves to Cllr Barker

You will be aware that that Derby received over 230 illegal migrants from Kent. The government has failed to stop mass immigration by allowing hundreds of illegal dinghies reach our coastline around Dover. This has swamped Kent. The Government has paid Serco over £4bn to distribute these people around the country.

Can you explain why the people of Derby were not made sufficiently aware of the Midland Hotel encampment?

Can you say what is likely to happen to these people? Are they here for weeks, months, years?

Is there any truth in the rumour that the Mickleover Court Hotel is the next building to house Asylum Seekers?

The individuals accommodated at the Midland Hotel have legally registered as asylum seekers and should be identified as such. Referring to them in any other way risks undermining the very reason that the location was not advertised.

We do not routinely advertise locations where asylum seekers are accommodated. The reasons for this are consideration of their emotional and physical safety. As can be seen with the incidents of hate at Laverstoke Court and hotels across the country being targeted, drawing the attention of those who wish to cause harm and distress to these vulnerable individuals must be avoided.

The Midland Hotel is being used by the Home Office and their provider – Serco – as a contingency to manage the current situation. A situation that is exacerbated by Covid 19 which resulted in reduced capacity across the asylum estate. The lockdown stopped all decision-making regarding asylum claims and further prevented movement of asylum seekers out of their accommodation creating a greater demand than capacity. As these restrictions ease, it is expected that the need for contingency accommodation will also ease.

We have no knowledge of the Mickleover Court Hotel being proposed as a location for accommodating asylum seekers.

hh) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr M Holmes

The Tranche 1 Emergency Highways Changes should now all have been implemented, and some will be getting close to their three-month review period. How are road users going to be consulted about these changes?

The measures delivered under the Government's Emergency Active Travel programme began being implemented from late July with a programme of review after three months.

The Council will be seeking feedback from ward councillors, road users and residents by asking for comments via the Council website and social media etc.

Some of the schemes are very specific and in these areas the Council will also seek to proactively engage with as many residents as possible.

ii) Question from Cllr Shanker to Cllr M Holmes

Can the responsible Cabinet Member please share information missing from the Planning Application to demolish the Assembly Rooms as to what the likely “meanwhile” use will actually be and what will it offer Derby Residents as well as the cost of doing this?

There are exciting plans for a meanwhile use of the Assembly Rooms site and these will be part of consultation leading to determination of the demolition application by the Planning Committee in November.

Procurement and related detail will follow in due course.

jj) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr Williams

There are very few spare primary school places in Derby, in part because of the number of new homes being built around the city where school provision is not yet built or not yet open. How is the City Council working with County, Borough and District Councils to ensure that in future the new school places for children living in the County are provided in a more timely manner?

Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council work together very closely to plan for new school provision, particularly in relation to new housing developments near to the City / County boundary. Both Local Authorities work very closely in planning the opening up of new capacity to ensure there are sufficient school places.

In the City, the new Hackwood Primary Academy successfully opened in September 2019 to serve the Hackwood Farm development in Mickleover. This was part of the Council's forward planning to ensure the new school was built at an early stage and is now opening up capacity on a gradual basis, to ensure sufficient places as new houses continue to be built and occupied by families.

In relation to housing developments outside of the city boundary and pupils attending schools in Derby, city primary schools in these areas are able to accommodate children from within their catchment areas, as well as a proportion of pupils from outside of their catchment areas, in line with parental preference. If more applications are received than places available at a school, then the school's admissions criteria are applied, prioritising places.

Pupil numbers and trends are carefully monitored and reviewed across all areas of the city to ensure sufficient places. There is currently around 8% surplus capacity across Derby's primary schools.

Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council work in a very close partnership on school place planning and new housing near to the city / county boundary. The Council also works very closely with all local Planning Authorities in relation to new housing developments.