



Council Meeting
Wednesday 25 September 2019

Public and Member Questions
and Responses



Derby City Council

COUNCIL – 25 September 2019
PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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Public Questions			
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B	Simon Bacon	Councillor Smale	Rolling tonnage figure for residual waste
C	Dorothy Skrytek	Councillor Holmes	Masterplan V7 planned for Elvaston Castle
D	Simon Bacon	Councillor Smale	Sinfin Waste Incineration Plant
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E	Councillor Naitta	Councillor M Holmes	Climate change in Part 2 of the Local Plan
F	Councillor Lind	Councillor Smale	Black bins
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H	Councillor Shanker	Councillor M Holmes	Assembly Rooms
I	Councillor Peatfield	Councillor M Holmes	Climate change
J	Councillor Care	Councillor Smale	Markeaton crematorium
K	Councillor Potter	Councillor Barker	Taxi checks
L	Councillor Cooper	Councillor M Holmes	Taxi emissions
M	Councillor A Pegg	Councillor A Holmes	Licensing Committee priorities
N	Councillor Naitta	Councillor M Holmes	A38 junction project
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P	Councillor Carr	Councillor M Holmes	Electric vans

Public Questions

a) Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Councillor Webb

The Derby rate of mortality from all cancers was 85.9 per 100,000 population in 2014-16. It is not clear from the data on the city website, what the current cancer rates are. Can the council let us all know about the current reported spike in cancers in Derby, the most updated rate and the most affected wards?

The latest published data is for 2015-17 and is available on the Public Health England (PHE) Fingertips platform: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/>

Below are some of the latest statistics relating to cancer in Derby:

- Under 75 mortality rate from cancer considered preventable (referred to in the question) reduced in 2015-17 to 83.9 deaths per 100,000 population, in line with the national average. The rate in Derby has been reducing since 2007-09 when the rate was 99.3. The graph below shows the trend since 2001-03:

4.05ii – Under 75 mortality rate from cancer considered preventable for Derby



- Under 75 mortality rate from all cancer was 142.2 per 100,000 in 2015-17 which as above, continues to fall. The rate in Derby is above the national average but is lower than the majority of its 'nearest neighbours' (most similar Local Authorities).
- The percentage of all deaths with an underlying cause of cancer increased from 27.2% to 28% between 2016 and 2017. The national

average is 27.6%. Over the last decade in Derby the proportion has fluctuated between 25.3% and 29.2%.

- Reported new cancer cases in Derby and Derbyshire CCG – 591 per 100,000 population - increased slightly in 2016/17 on 2015/16 but would not constitute a 'spike'.
- The proportion of cancer deaths occurring at home, in a care home or religious establishment (as a proxy of quality of end of life care) was 44.6% in 2016 in line with the England average of 44.5%.

Due to technical issues, we are currently unable to report mortality rates from cancer at ward level. We will, however, be reviewing local area mortality rates in the near future once the technical issue has resolved.

b) Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Smale

Please provide the latest 12 month rolling tonnage figure to the most recent quarter for residual waste collected by the council i.e. NOT recycled waste, this should include black bin and residual waste at the Raynesway HWRC site.

	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18
Black bin waste	4655.0	5130.6	4470.1	4897.7	4705.7	3044.7
HWRC waste	472.5	459.8	346.2	273.3	261.1	336.8

	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19
Black bin waste	5877.9	4158.9	4511.5	4663.1	5305.2	4312.5
HWRC waste	432.0	387.9	403.0	630.7	557.8	523.4

Data for Q1 of 2019/20 has yet to be validated by WasteDataFlow – although unlikely, there is a chance it may be subject to minor change.

c) Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Councillor M Holmes

Connected to Derby City Council's declared climate emergency, Derby & South Derbyshire Friends of the Earth ask Derby City Council to oppose the Masterplan V7 for a polluting, carbon intensive road & car park, to destroy public open space, trees, biodiversity, and which is planned for Elvaston Castle park & gardens by Derbyshire County Council. The deleterious impacts on residents and increased air pollution from induced traffic in/through nearby Alvaston/A6 would indicate that a response from DCC is appropriate.

The Council weren't consulted on this planning application and so were not aware of it. Now that we have been made aware, we will review the application information and provide a consultation response if necessary.

d) Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Smale

The currently dormant Sinfin waste incineration plant is defined by the UK government as a D10 disposal plant at the bottom of the waste hierarchy which is shared with landfill, this was confirmed by the developer at the 2nd public inquiry into the planning application. This is considered to be an inefficient energy from waste process compared to modern efficient plants which are defined as R1 recovery facilities which are higher up the waste hierarchy. With the council continuing to state they are committed to a gasification plant on the Sinfin site why after more than 10 years is the council continuing to push forward with an out dated inefficient waste disposal process which will not move the city's waste up the waste hierarchy and in fact condemns it to being trapped at the bottom of the waste hierarchy?

Ultimately, we are looking for the best and most sustainable solution for dealing with the city's waste for Derby and local tax payers.

The council has just come out of a very complex contract. We are now going through the process to establish the condition of the facility. This is a process that we must go through, and go through now.

Work is taking place to assess and determine the condition of the facility; this will allow the councils to ascertain what measures need to be in place for the facility to become fully operational. .

We are in the early stages of this assessment process, but anticipate the information will be available for us to consider in early 2020.

Councillor Questions

e) Question from Councillor Naitta to Councillor M Holmes

How is the need for urgent and decisive action on Climate Change being included in Part 2 of the Local Plan?

In developing the Part 2 Plan we have already identified and begun drafting policies relating to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, air quality and biodiversity.

The Council is employing a Climate Change Co-ordinator who will look at how we can integrate this issue into our main plans and strategies including evidence supporting the development of the DCLP2.

f) Question from Councillor Lind to Councillor Smale

In light of the black bin waste now going to landfill, what measures are you taking to minimise the amount of waste being put into black bins?

The Council has reintroduced a free Garden waste scheme which is actively diverting waste from the residual waste stream (black bins) into the Garden waste scheme (brown bins). We have an active communication strategy in place which is further driving sign-ups to the scheme.

The Council is in the process of reintroducing dry recycling (blue bins) on an opt-in basis to properties within the inner city wards that had them removed in 2014.

We are active in promoting recycling both on a face to face basis and through various social media platforms; one of the most recent is recycling week.

g) Question from Councillor Hezelgrave to Councillor Williams

Given that the current published percentage of EHC plans being issued within 20 weeks by the local area is now down to 11.7%, and that there has been an increase of 13% in the number of applications received during 2019, which could not have been foreseen when the budget for 2019 – 20 was panned for and set, and mindful that Ofsted's recent Joint local Area SEND inspection deemed EHC plans to be poor, will more financial resources be devoted to this area during this financial year

This is not simply a case of financial resources. This is about fully understanding the reason for the huge increase in requests for EHC plans, which is also the national trend.

In Derby, there has been a 66 per cent increase in request for plans in 2018, and this continues to increase in 2019.

The Local Area, including parents, schools and wider stakeholders are considering the reason for this demand as part of dedicated and focused SEND workshops with parents and partners scheduled for September and October as part of developing the SEND Ofsted Written Statement of Action.

A two day dedicated workshop also took place in August.

For information, the Council has so far invested £1m in SEND as an annual budget to manage the EHP process. Resource levels will continue to remain under review.

h) Question from Councillor Shanker to Councillor M Holmes

Surely it would be sensible and prudent to compare the Assembly Rooms refurbishment costs against the costs to build a New Modern Performance Venue for the city, in fact it was agreed at a Corporate Services Scrutiny Board that this should be done. Can you share this so the public can decide how robust your decision is?

This administration is committed to refurbishing and enhancing the existing New Assembly Rooms to deliver a conference, events and concerts venue with a new look and new feel, and that will have a great offer when open.

We have always been clear in our strategy to open a venue in the heart of the city centre that attracts visitors, spend and investment to the city centre.

The costs of the two options are vastly different – the renewal option will not only deliver an outcome more quickly but at a much lower cost.

We have compared the renewal cost with the new build cost and our approach is less than half the cost (£24m against £50m).

i) Question from Councillor Peatfield to Councillor M Holmes

In May the Climate Emergency Motion called for a Derby Climate Change Working Group. When can we expect this group to be formed?

I believe this Council took a strong and positive step in declaring a Climate Emergency earlier this year. At that time I was very clear that this is not just about the City Council, everyone has a part to play – citizens, communities and all Derby organisations.

As a Council, we have a civic leadership role in bringing people together. We have been working with officers to set up the foundations to facilitate a collaborative approach. There have been meeting with a variety of stakeholders so that everyone can input into the set-up of the working group but also how we can best use the groups that already exist, so that we are not duplicating our efforts.

I expect to see a first meeting by the end of October to review the findings from these discussions so that we can agree the best way forward. We will also start to review the former strategy and assess where we are now – where we are doing well and where there are gaps.

The UK Government was the first major economy to pass laws to end its contribution to global warming by 2050. Here in Derby we want to play our part in these ambitions. Like many other organisations, the Council is constrained by its budgets and resources but it is committed to promote the understanding of this critically important issue and to develop a programme of action to reduce both our own and the city's carbon footprint.

j) Question from Councillor Care to Councillor Smale

Travel time to the Markeaton Crematorium will likely be more unpredictable during the A38 works. This would make a pre-funeral refreshments offer attractive. How could the Council go about providing such a refreshments offer/area including the opportunity to book space for post-funeral family/friends hospitality?

For operational reasons Bereavement Services will be altering the booking times available for funerals so they are one hour apart, currently they are 40 minutes apart, this will allow more time for services to run smoothly. The service will always inform funeral directors about any traffic disruptions that may affect them so they can plan accordingly.

Markeaton Crematorium has waiting areas and hot drinks and water dispensers are available in both chapels for family and friends attending services. Currently, the service does not have the facilities or space available to offer post-funeral hospitality, however, this will be considered as part of a wider review of Bereavement Services.

k) Question from Councillor Potter to Councillor Barker

The police and council recently carried out checks to Taxi vehicles operating in Derby City Centre. Can the cabinet member please offer an overview of what was found?

A verbal response will be provided.

I) Question from Councillor Cooper to Councillor M Homes

A video has recently been released by Derbyshire Road Policing Unit that shows a huge cloud of thick black smoke coming from a Derby Taxis' exhaust.

In light of the Council's commitment to cleaner air and declaration of a 'Climate Emergency', would you agree that urgent action is clearly required to ensure that the Taxi fleet operating in Derby is both 'Clean and Green'?

A verbal response will be provided.

m) Question from Councillor A Pegg to Councillor A Holmes

The police have supported the council with proposals to improve standards, introduce a maximum age of vehicles and increase the testing regime. At the last licensing committee those proposals were amended by Liberal Democrat, Labour and Brexit councillors.

The police have subsequently stated that they believe this was due to “pressure from the associations representing the commercial interests of the taxi trade.” As the chair of the licensing committee, can you provide assurances that public safety along with a clean and safe Taxi fleet is the licensing committees’ priority?

A verbal response will be provided.

n) Question from Councillor Naitta to Councillor M Holmes

What assurances has the Leader obtained from Highways England after his high-level meeting about the A38 junctions project regarding preparations to minimise the impacts of four years of construction work on Derby?

Thank you for the opportunity to remind us all about this Highways England scheme, which is coming ever closer. It cannot be overstated just how beneficial the A38 Grade Separation scheme will be.

It will remove congestion, smooth out the traffic flows and improve local and long-distance journeys. It will also contribute to better air quality and is something we have all wanted and waited for, for many years.

It's a major engineering project as the three junctions at Kingsway, Markeaton and Little Eaton will be worked on simultaneously. The Highways England application is currently going through formal examination by the national Planning Inspectorate. This process will take several months and we will know better by the end of the year when works are likely to start, should everything get through that process. My understanding is that this could be as soon as November/December 2020.

The works will take at least 4 years to complete. I am confident that I am speaking for the whole Council, when I say that I am anxious about the impact of the construction phase of this project on our city.

I met with Highways England project leads along with the Leader in July to start to build positive working relationships with their team. We set out some of our key issues and requests. We discussed our network constraints and pinch points, along with our future planned works. There was an open conversation about potential resources to help us manage the demands on our city and our officers. This included communication and technical support and co-location, along with support and alignment with our own transport network management.

We have secured their engagement with the multi-agency Derby Behavioural Change Group that has been established to maximise the opportunity the scheme presents to move people away from cars and into public transport, cycling and walking to and from the city centre. I believe this was a positive meeting and that the team heard and understood our views.

As I have said, I am aware that all Councillors are representing our citizens in raising their concerns, I have also heard from partners, not only those located near the A38 like the University, but businesses across the city who are concerned about the movement of people and goods. It will be important for us to work collectively with clear lines of communication across all sectors.

Along with the Leader and Cabinet I will continue to press for support and resources from Highways England. Our meetings will be on-going, and will intensify when their contractor is announced and the project plan is confirmed.

o) Question from Councillor Hezelgrave to Councillor Williams

The recent Ofsted report arising from our Local Area SEND inspection delivered a judgement that Education, Health and Care Plans are poor. Their word - not mine. A poor EHC plan can only fail to address the often highly complex needs of the most vulnerable children and young people in our city. Our affected children deserve better. Are you prepared to reconsider the Labour Group's proposed amendment to the Budget at full Council on February 27th that that the £630,000 cut in spending on the high Needs Block be met from the Council's General Reserves? The Labour Group amendment, opposed by all other parties, did warn Council that the cut would be damaging to the SEND system in the city. How sadly true that was and is.

The Council continues to make strong national representation in relation to adequate funding for schools to deliver the ambitions of the SEND reforms.

It is factually incorrect to suggest that funding of £630,000 from the Council's General Reserve could resolve the High Needs Block pressures.

Options for a High Needs recovery plan are currently being discussed and considered for a jointly developed plan with the schools sector.

Whilst there have been recent national announcements to increase levels of SEND funding, it is acknowledged that additional national funding is needed to meet the ambitions of the SEND Reforms.

The Council does not have funding for any shortfall in the High Needs Block, and will continue with strong national lobbying for additional SEND funding for our children and young people.

p) Question from Councillor Carr to Councillor M Holmes

The Council has put up lots of posters extolling the virtues of electric cars. When will it follow its own advice and make its fleet of smaller vans electric?

Derby City Council has only a few small vans in its fleet. Most of these are due to be replaced with electric over the coming 12 to 15 months. At present we have 8 electric vans and when we have completed the replacement we should have over 15 in total. We are developing a Cleaner Fleet Policy which will provide guidance and direction on how and when we adopt alternatively fuelled vehicles within the authority.