



Council Meeting  
Wednesday 24 February 2021

Public and Councillor Questions  
and Responses



Derby City Council

**COUNCIL – 24 February 2021**  
**PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Public Questions</b>			
<b>A</b>	Nathalie Hollingworth	Councillor Webb	Vaccinations administered by GPs
<b>B</b>	Emily Lonsdale	Councillor M Holmes	Crossing point at Manor Kingsway
<b>C</b>	Mair Bain	Councillor M Holmes	(i) Review & update of the Local Transport Plan (ii) Carbon intensive infrastructure developments
<b>D</b>	Adrian Howlett	Councillor Webb	Climate impact of new homes
<b>E</b>	Brendan Connelly	Councillor Roulstone	Council Tax increase
<b>F</b>	Nathalie Hollingworth	Councillor Roulstone	Piloting Universal Basic Income
<b>Councillor Questions</b>			
<b>G</b>	Councillor Atwal	Councillor Barker	Allestree Park Golf Course
<b>H</b>	Councillor P Pegg	Councillor Smale	Neighbourhood working
<b>I</b>	Councillor Repton	Councillor Wood	Moorways swimming pool
<b>J</b>	Councillor Hezelgrave	Councillor Roulstone	Free school meal vouchers
<b>K</b>	Councillor Hussain	Councillor Webb	Covid-19 in care homes
<b>L</b>	Councillor Dhindsa	Councillor Smale	Anti-Racism campaign
<b>M</b>	Councillor Shanker	Councillor M Holmes	Assembly Rooms responses
<b>N</b>	Councillor Carr	Councillor M Holmes	Removal of Local Plan Part 2 from Forward Plan
<b>O</b>	Councillor Care	Councillor M Holmes	Support for Mickleover transport priorities
<b>P</b>	Councillor Repton	Councillor Roulstone	Council Tax increase
<b>Q</b>	Councillor Repton	Councillor M Holmes	Response to public consultations

# Public Questions



**a) Question from Nathalie Hollingworth to Councillor Webb**

**Will suburban (including Chellaston) GP surgeries situated at a distance from the Derby Royal Hospital provide Covid-19 vaccinations to Derby residents who do not have cars therefore cannot reach the inaccessible DRH without incurring taxi expenses of more than £20.00?**

The rollout of vaccinations is not being facilitated by the Council. It is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), working with NHS.

Locally, the rollout is being facilitated by Joined Up Care Derbyshire, and it is their responsibility, working alongside local GP surgeries, to arrange vaccinations for those not able to attend a facility, including provision for housebound patients to be vaccinated at home.

Council officers are meeting regularly with CCG and NHS colleagues, and have already flagged similar concerns, which CCG colleagues are addressing, however I will pass your comments onto them.

**b) Question from Emily Lonsdale to Councillor M Holmes**

**When will there be a safe crossing point installed for the Manor Kingsway phase 2 development so that residents can safely cross with their children to attend our catchment area school Brackensdale and walk to get shopping from our local supermarket?**

The aim is still to provide safe, controlled crossing points for pedestrian at this location.

The Kingsway site is complicated, as several agencies and landowner interests are involved, and Council officers have been trying to ensure that a solution is agreed and implemented for some time.

Currently, Homes England and Kier Living are assessing the latest design proposal. A solution is dependent on their agreement. It is not possible to give an exact timescale.

**c) Question from Mair Bain to Councillor M Holmes**

- (i) Recent news has highlighted that the continued expansion of transport infrastructure such as roads will make climate targets impossible to achieve. The Highways England A38 Junctions scheme which is included in Derby City Council's Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) is currently being taken to judicial review for climate and air quality issues. While the RIS2 national roads scheme, which the A38 is part of, is called into doubt as Transport Secretary Grant Shapps had decided to override Whitehall advice to review the 2014 national policy statement on national networks (NPS). Given that it's becoming clear that road building and road expansion plans conflict with climate laws - when will Derby City Council review and update the Local Transport Plan to include carbon budgets to reflect the declaration of a climate emergency and the Government's plans for the UK to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050?**
- (ii) Will Derby City Council suspend potentially carbon intensive infrastructure developments while reviewing Local Transport Plan 3 and calculating the carbon emissions of the projects to ensure that they do not hinder the UK's ability to meet the Paris Agreement and Net-Zero 2050?**

The current LTP document already identifies climate change and low carbon in its goals and challenges. The Council's infrastructure programmes for the next three to four years are focused on the delivery of over £60m of investment to support walking, cycling and public transport. All of which are aimed at accelerating decarbonisation and building on our historic programmes to develop more options for sustainable travel. This is the biggest single investment in transport infrastructure in Derby for many years.

A new plan will need to recognise many changes and developments in national transport policy, such as the expected Integrated Rail Plan. It will have to consider wider policy initiatives such as the acceleration of decarbonisation, the promotion of health and wellbeing and managing public assets. It will also have to be mindful of the impacts of Covid 19 and our recovery over the next five years and the overall vision for Derby. One important aspect will be the advances and opportunities in future fuels, where Derby can take a lead role in engineering and manufacturing excellence.

Derby City Council is committed to ensuring its infrastructure projects are in line with national commitments on carbon emissions.

**d) Question from Adrian Howlett to Councillor Webb**

**Why are you permitting new house building where heating is by legacy fossil fuel combustion (natural gas), taking into account:**

- 1. That the Council has declared a climate emergency.**
- 2. Heating by burning fossil fuels is in stark contradiction to the UK's committed goals and strategy.**
- 3. The new homeowners will be burdened with the high cost of disposing of legacy gas boilers and retrofit with low carbon heating, probably within the next five to ten years?**

**If it is the case that you do not have the power to enforce low carbon heating, what other steps are you taking to promote and facilitate the rapid adoption of low carbon heating into the private housing sector (both for new-build and retrofit)?**

As stated in Derby City's Local Plan: The Council gives great importance to delivering sustainable development. In addition, the Council's recently adopted Housing Strategy 2020-2029 contains a number of actions to promote sustainable development in the coming years.

Whilst the Council is not in a position to require low carbon heating, it is committed to leading the private sector by example, ensuring that its own housing developments are amongst the most sustainable in the city. The majority of the Council's new homes are delivered by Derby Homes which ensures that all new council house building projects adopt the key principles of the future house building standards with respect to extra levels of thermal insulation to the fabric of the building and low carbon heating solutions.

In addition, Derby Homes have retrofitted over 100 existing homes with low carbon air source heat pumps, this works as a retrofit solution on homes that have high levels of thermal performance such as flats and sheltered schemes. Our only high-rise block of flats has benefitted from low carbon heating for over 18 months the feedback from tenants is very good and we are looking to expand our retrofitting programme and encourage the private sector to take this up.

We also encourage external partners to adopt higher standards too: we recently gave grant aid support for a new bungalow scheme owned by the War Memorial Village Trust in Shelton Lock. These homes have high levels of thermal

insulation, triple glazing, air source heat pump underfloor heating and over 3kw of solar pv panels fitted to the roof. These homes, constructed by Derby Homes, set the blueprint for all future council house building.

Finally, the Council has just successfully bid for some £900k to enable us to work with private homeowners and council tenants to improve the thermal insulation of both privately owned and council homes.

**e) Question from Brendan Connelly to Councillor Roulstone**

**Why has the Tory cabinet agreed to increase Council Tax by the highest amount possible, when they pledged in their election manifesto that they would only increase the council tax by the minimum?**

The Council annually reviews the need to levy increased Council Tax within the Council Tax referendum limits set by the Government.

The impact of the pandemic on Council's Finances is significant (and indeed a shock) to our Medium-Term Financial Plan approved in February. In order to continue to support our vulnerable, invest in the City and promote financial sustainability the Council needed to maximise income from this funding source – this has allowed the Council to propose a budget with no planned recurrent use of reserves for 2021/22.

**f) Question from Nathalie Hollingworth to Councillor Roulstone**

**Will the Council consider piloting Universal Basic Income as is currently being piloted by Brighton, Islington and Norwich as a way to manage the COvid-19 recovery from depression in a futuristic manner as has been prescribed by Business Studies academics for many years?**

We are aware that a small number of Councils have written to Government asking to be a Universal Basic Income (UBI) pilot area and we will continue to monitor the results of any UBI pilots.

In the meantime the Council is fully committed to providing residents of Derby with the best possible support through COVID support initiatives, such as the business grant schemes, COVID Winter Support scheme and test and trace isolation payments, as well as the implementation of a city wide recovery plan.



# Councillor Questions



**g) Question from Councillor Atwal to Councillor Barker**

**With reference to the public consultation process relating to Allestree Park Golf Course, can the responsible cabinet members please advise how many consultees responded, where the responses are published and do they honestly think the process provides a fair and reliable representation when the country was besieged by the pandemic during the 2 months of consultation?**

A verbal response will be provided.

**h) Question from Councillor P Pegg to Councillor Smale**

**Can you tell the elected members when you intend to consult them over the proposed changes to Neighbourhood Working and why weren't Members made aware of the 12-month trial period?**

Thank you for raising the profile of neighbourhood working on the Council agenda Councillor Pegg, I welcome any opportunity to showcase the excellent work the team do.

Our Neighbourhood Teams are vital to the Covid response and the recovery and have been starting to work more collaboratively with other services across the council since the start of the pandemic, an innovation I am particularly keen to promote and build.

As such I am sure you will recall then when I met with you on 3 February and 16 February alongside senior officers to discuss the approach, I explained that the teams are starting to blend their working models to determine the best way to work with our communities across the whole council .

This follows the Better Together presentations given to the Communities Scrutiny Board on 25 January 2021 and the Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Board on 18 January 2021 which were both positively received by councillors.

**i) Question from Councillor Repton to Councillor Wood**

**I note that the Administration are looking for a private operator to manage the new swimming pool complex. Should investment of public money be driven by financial considerations or community benefit?**

The investment of £42m by the Council in a state-of-the-art leisure complex including a 50m pool and water park at Moorways is an ambitious and exciting project to provide residents with access to significantly enhanced health and wellbeing facilities for generations to come.

The project is advancing well with the building shell already taking clear form and there is no change to the opening scheduled for the summer of 2022 despite the not insignificant challenges of Covid19 in the construction sector during the last 12 months.

As with any investment of public money it is incumbent on the Council to ensure the best value for taxpayers is achieved.

**j) Question from Councillor Hezelgrave to Councillor Roulstone**

**At a recent Cabinet meeting discussing provision of vouchers for Free School Meals families during school holidays, you seemed to say that if eligible families went away on holiday, they would not be provided with vouchers. Is this correct? And how many children do you expect will actually receive vouchers in the summer holidays?**

A verbal response will be provided.

**k) Question from Councillor Hussain to Councillor Webb**

**National research indicates that coronavirus related deaths in care homes are disproportionately high. Can you tell me how many people have died of coronavirus in Derby and what proportion were care home residents?**

In an average year, care home resident deaths account for 20% of all deaths in Derby. Between the 23 March 2020 and the 18 February 2021 there have been 728 deaths of Derby residents where Coronavirus was recorded on the death certificate, 179 of those deaths were of care home residents. As a proportion, that is 25% of all Coronavirus related deaths registered over the course of that timeframe, have been of people living in care homes.

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

**Will you join with me and Derby City Labour Group to support the plans by Derby Stand Up to Racism and other campaign groups against hate to commemorate the United Nations World Anti-Racism Day which this year will be on 20 March 2021. I have pledged my support to work with them and in my opinion, it would be a great statement against racism if the whole Council could stand united in this endeavour.**

Thank you Councillor Dhindsa for asking this question; I welcome the opportunity to discuss anti-racism campaigns at Council.

I believe this is an area of great importance and am extremely happy to work in a cross-political arena to support these campaigns.

I discussed the need to do more to address Hate Crime with senior officers very recently and am proud to inform the Council of the following activities:

- £5k Funding committed to the Tell Mama campaign to support taxi drivers with technology to prevent and evidence Hate Crime
- Review of the Council's Hate Crime strategy
- Hate Crime training from Stop Hate UK for front line Public Protection employees

I believe that racism should not be tolerated in any environment and will proudly stand with you in this endeavour.

**m) Question from Councillor Shanker to Councillor M Holmes**

**I have asked questions regarding the proposed demolition of the Assembly rooms on several occasions, you have misled me and Derby's residents at 2 consecutive Full Council meetings and then failed to even respond to my emails when your misleading responses have been called out. In January, when you were correcting the response you gave to my question at the November meeting, you misled us claiming a communication had been issued when in fact no such communication was issued. Why do you continue to mislead the public on this?**

A verbal response will be provided.

**n) Question from Councillor Carr to Councillor M Holmes**

**With the removal of the Local Plan Part 2 from the Forward Plan, how and when will new policy on areas like high buildings, open space, retailing, climate-aware building design and sustainable transport infrastructure be made, so that development in Derby meets future needs rather than being stuck in an unsustainable past?**

Currently, specific elements of the Local Plan Part 2 are being considered for adoption to ensure development and regeneration in Derby continues to be sustainable and meet the city's future needs.

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

**Have any of the Mickleover councillors been in touch with any of the Littleover councillors to ask us to support the Mickleover transport priority to reduce the speed limit on Uttoxeter Road, as mentioned in the Mickleover Directory? If so, please would you provide a copy of any email or other evidence of this.**

A verbal response will be provided.

**p) Question from Councillor Repton to Councillor Roulstone**

**Will the public feel that the 4.99% Council Tax increase is right for the City of Derby?**

A verbal response will be provided.

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

**Consultation is a vital means of the Council engaging with residents on important decisions for the city. Given that this administration proclaims to believe in openness and transparency, what measures are in place to ensure the views of the public are reflected in the decisions that are being taken and why have those views been repeatedly ignored, such as in the recent consultation on the electoral cycle?**

A verbal response will be provided.