



Derby City Council

**Council Meeting
Wednesday 19 September 2012**

**Public and Member Questions and
Responses**

COUNCIL – 19 SEPTEMBER 2012
PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
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Public Questions

A	Tariq Pervaiz	Councillor Dhindsa	Hackney Carriages
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Councillor Questions

B	Councillor Allen	Councillor Bayliss	Sprinkler Systems
C	Councillor Jones	Councillor Banwait	Neighbourhood Wardens
D	Councillor Ashburner	Councillor Repton	Derbyshire County Cricket Club
E	Councillor Ashburner	Councillor Dhindsa	Market Place Waterfall
F	Councillor Troup	Councillor Dhindsa	Green Deal

a. Question from Tariq Pervaiz to Councillor Dhindsa

When will the Council provide more rank space for Hackney Carriages in Derby City Centre or cap the number of Hackney Carriage licences as an alternative?

I recognise that this is an important issue for the hackney carriage trade, even though the number of licensed taxis has reduced in recent years from 341 in 2008/9 to 315 currently, as you are already aware Mr Pervaiz.

Implementing either of these proposals (capping numbers or increasing rank spaces) is neither easy nor quick as I am sure my colleagues from all parties who have considered these requests previously are aware. Both present a range of legal and practical issues, and involve a number of different stakeholders. Both would require consultation and careful consideration.

Both of these matters were raised at the last Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee meeting on 30 August and it was agreed that these topics needed further detailed discussion at a future meeting, which I understand is being arranged.

In addition to this, these issues were also discussed at the first meeting of the Taxi Partnership (organised and chaired/vice chaired by Councillors Banwait and Afzal) that was held with hackney carriage drivers on 11 September. All of the issues raised at this meeting were noted and a plan of action is in the process of being prepared. I understand that a number of taxi drivers have volunteered, at the request of the chair and vice chair, to be part of a sub-group that will look into the issue of rank space within the city.

I can assure you Mr Pervaiz that they will be considered carefully by elected members over the coming months.

b. Question from Councillor Allen to Councillor Bayliss

Will the Leader of the Council provide each councillor with a list of all properties for which the council has responsibility stating which properties are protected by a sprinkler system or not?

The Property Maintenance and Energy team have provided a list of all the properties for which the council has responsibilities and this will be emailed to all 51 members tomorrow morning.

Out of this list the following nine properties have sprinkler systems installed:

1. Eagle Centre Market, The Morledge
2. Village Primary School, Village Street
3. Ivy House School, Moorway Lane
4. Aspect, Sir Frank Whittle Road
5. Customer Services Centre, Albion Street (Leased from landlord. Landlord responsible for repairs)
6. Sinfin Community School (don't buy our maintenance package, but we visit when a condition survey is scheduled)
7. Noel Baker School
8. St Martin's School
9. Lakeside Primary School

(The last three schools are PFI schools so maintenance of the sprinklers currently sits with the PFI contractor.)

c. Question from Councillor Jones to Councillor Banwait

Will the Cabinet Member explain how service delivery will be improved for the citizens of Derby by the Labour Manifesto pledge to have a designated neighbourhood worker for each ward?

The new labour administration is committed to revitalise the neighbourhood agenda, as outlined in the manifesto. By having a dedicated neighbourhood worker in each neighbourhood service delivery will be improved in the following ways:

- Neighbourhood workers will be working in the neighbourhoods themselves, equipped for mobile and flexible working, therefore being able to respond to local issues that directly effect local people, such as crime, nuisance, environmental issues etc and developing long-term solutions as identified by the neighbourhood board and also provide a contact point for local people so they get to know the people who work for them.
- These new workers will bring with them knowledge and experience from their particular field and provide a focus on local issues.
- They will also provide invaluable support to local councillors in identifying local issues, solutions and importantly supporting them in their community leadership roles.
- By providing them with new powers we will also empower them to tackle local issues more immediately and effectively.
- They will work in partnership with local councillors, partner agencies and local people to identify the most appropriate solutions to local problems.
- This will ensure that local problems are identified quickly and resolved, thereby improving outcomes for local people, improving response times to issues and supporting local communities and councillors in their efforts to improve the local neighbourhood.

As well as this the administration are introducing neighbourhood charters designed to communicate with local people the level and quality of services they can expect to receive, improve the understanding of public services, raise local issues and act as a social charter between the council and the community, emphasising social responsibility and identifying the role residents can play in improving their neighbourhood.

Finally to ensure that these valuable resources are targeted effectively we will introduce a city-wide board to identify city-wide and cross-cutting issues and co-ordinate plans to deliver long-term solutions by targeting and allocating staff and resources into specific problem locations or individuals. This board will be made of key partners including the police and fire service.

d. Question from Councillor Ashburner to Councillor Repton

As the home of Derbyshire County Cricket Club would it be possible to celebrate their winning Division 2 and promotion to Division 1 with an open top bus parade around Derby?

Derbyshire County Cricket Club is very proud to have gained promotion this season as Division Two champions. This is Derbyshire's first trophy since the Benson and Hedges Cup at Lords in 1993. They are very honoured to be able to mark their winning of the LV= County Championship with a Civic Reception in the City of Derby for players, officials and key partners and it will be a privilege to be involved in the City of Derby and the County of Derbyshire's latest celebration in this amazing summer of sport.

They are looking forward to shaping the legacy in the future with key partners and have been very pleased to be invited by Derby County Football Club to show off the LV= County Championship Division Two Trophy at the home game on Saturday 22 September providing a further celebration in the city.

e. Question from Councillor Ashburner to Councillor Dhindsa

As Councillor Hardy Dhindsa has been reported as wishing to “bring nature to the city centre” will he support a proposal to clad the Waterfall in the Market Square with vegetation, for example ivy?

The Waterfall is an important piece of City Centre public art, well loved by many. Letting plants cover it may not only damage it, but would harm it as a public art piece.

There are many more appropriate opportunities in the City Centre to bring nature back, including those highlighted in the recently adopted City Centre Regeneration Framework. It shows there are real opportunities to do this in various parts of the City Centre, but particularly along the River, (including in the current works to regenerate the Riverside Gardens) and on blank walls and roofs. Here green walls and roofs on existing and new buildings and structures, could bring real biodiversity, visual and energy saving benefits.

f. Question from Councillor Troup to Councillor Dhindsa

What preparations are the Council making both within the Council and citywide for the introduction next month of the Green Deal?

The Climate Change Team has been working across departments and with external organisations over the past 12 months to investigate what opportunities for the Council and for our residents there might be from the introduction of the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation from October 2012.

The Council is currently considering the options for our role in the Green Deal process, but my recent thoughts are that the option of being a Green Deal Partner is the most appropriate. This would mean that we would look to work in partnership with Green Deal Provider/Providers. This view is based on a drawing from a wide range of sources of information, Government guidance, and on what other councils are doing. This is the approach that many other councils are pursuing and, given the uncertainties and complexity of this completely new initiative, is probably the most prudent one to take at this stage. Cabinet will be considering a report on this matter shortly.

While much work has taken place, the Green Deal Partner approach will not be in place by the launch of the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation on 1 October – it may take a number of months to develop after that. However, we are already looking at working with Derby Homes to take advantage of solid wall insulation funding through the Energy Company Obligation as a first step.

The Climate Change Team will be ready to deal with any enquiries as and when they arise after 1 October. We are also working with the Notts/Derbys Local Authorities' Energy Partnership to produce information leaflets that we can send out to residents when they enquire.