



Council Meeting
Wednesday 19 July 2023

Public and Councillor Questions
and Responses



Derby City Council

COUNCIL – 19 July 2023
PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

| | Questioner | Respondent | Subject |
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| A | Tony Mott | Councillor Swan | A6 cycle path |
| B | Brendan Connelly | Councillor Swan | Road repair schedule |
| C | Margaret Palmer | Councillor S Khan | Houses in Multiple Occupation |
| D | Vanessa Boon (x 2) Brendan Connelly Julie Brandon | Councillor Hezelgrave | Questions relating to equality, diversity and community cohesion. |
| E | Alice McMichael | Councillor Hezelgrave | Support for refugee integration |
| F | Adrian Howlett Pauline Inwood Ruth Coates Clare Wood | Councillor Swan | Questions relating to Climate Change engagement and consultation. |
| G | Derek Gould | Councillor Shanker | Normanton ward candidate meeting |
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| X | Councillor Pandey | Councillor Dhindsa | Clean streets |
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| Z | Councillor J Wright | Councillor Shanker | Libraries review |
| AA | Councillor Eyre | Councillor Shanker | Future operators – Libraries review |
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| II | Councillor Smale | Councillor Whitby | Ashgate School budget deficit mitigation |
| JJ | Councillor Lonsdale | Councillor Dhindsa | Anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol misuse |
| KK | Councillor Care | Councillor Swan | Use of herbicides on Council land |
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Public Questions

a) Question from Tony Mott to Cllr Swan

If the Council are unable to stop people parking in the cycle lane on the A6 near St Benedict School, please can you move this section of the cycle path to the wide pavement on the other side of the road (no effect on congestion), thus making it safe for pupils to use to cycle to/from school?

Any changes to the pedestrian areas along this route will need to be carefully examined and of course, go through the appropriate consultation and engagement with local people.

At present there is no funding for construction. Options are being considered but the development phase of any scheme would not be started until 2024-25.

An option, for instance, could be to create a 'shared use' enhanced footway, with a two-way cycle path on the side of the road suggested. This not a straight-forward project, it would need sensitive widening. At the same time, it would ideally not remove any of the existing trees and avoid underground utilities.

There are level changes that would be required across resident's driveways to ensure access to properties is not made difficult and to manage the drainage of water.

b) Question from Brendan Connelly to Cllr Swan

Are the road repairs at Derby City Council running behind time if so at what length?

Our teams complete highway safety inspections and identify repairs in line with our adopted Highway Inspection Policy and to meet our statutory duty under the Highways Act 1980.

We aim to carry out repairs where possible within appropriate defect response timescales. Most of our repairs such as footways, street furniture etc are on track, although there is currently a delay on road repairs. Challenges to timescales are inevitable because of our own capacity, as well as availability of the network.

c) Question from Margaret Palmer to Cllr Shiraz Khan

Currently Derby City Council has enforcement responsibilities for the over 630 live Houses in multiple occupancy (HMO) licences it has issued. Should all these properties be fully occupied, 4921 individual tenants already benefit from the oversight of the Housing Standards Team, in respect to matters such as fire safety, regulation of their management and for new HMOs, since late in 2021. Greater than the minimum regulation required, bedroom sizes.

Although there are HMOs in every ward in the city, the information provided by Derby City Council does not reflect the new ward and changes to boundaries adopted in May 2023. The previous context was that Arboretum and Abbey Wards contained 25% and 24% total of these HMO properties, with Darley at 18%, then Alvaston 10% and Mackworth 9%. With the remaining 14% across the other 12 wards.

Derby City Council have promoted a Private Landlords Charter since 2016. When creating the Good Landlords' Charter and incorporating minimum housing standards for Derby tenants. Specifically, when building upon the Labour manifesto aspirations to make Derby "a thriving city, with thriving people, enjoying a more equal society with a higher standard of living...". Would the Councillor expand on which areas of the city are to benefit from the implementation of Article 4 HMO Directions?

Establishing an Article 4 direction is an evidence-based approach to tackle problem areas where further Local Authority controls are needed. It is a discretionary scheme that councils can adopt to help to deal with the problems associated with, in this case, HMOs that are not already covered by mandatory licensing. Officers are currently assessing the evidence that has been provided to ensure that it satisfies the level of secretary of state scrutiny for any areas that we do define. I have asked for a cabinet report to be prepared for consideration shortly. Any such decision would be subject to full consultation and will take into account responses and wider neighbourhood objectives and priorities.

d) Questions from Vanessa Boon (i and ii), Brendan Connelly, (iii) and Julie Brandon, (iv) to Cllr Hezelgrave

i) National reports are warning society of rising misogyny, harmful incel activity and sexist online content absorbed by young minds. With correlating headlines such as 'Derby has Britain's biggest gender pay gap' and 'Domestic abuse crimes almost tripled in Derbyshire over the last six years', there is a need to make life better and safer for women and girls in our city. Therefore, what steps will the Council take to prevent misogyny, embed gender equality and promote healthy relationships across the Council's activities, from local school classrooms to setting the example in this Chamber?

ii) Far-right activity has stirred up tensions in some pockets of Derby over the last decade, with particular stereotyping and stigmatising of Gypsy and Traveller communities. With the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) to foster good relations between people of different ethnicities, what steps will the Council take to repair the damage and facilitate a more harmonious neighbourly spirit towards families observing a nomadic way of life.

iii) Could you explain how Derby City Council promotes equality and diversity in everything it does?

iv) Firstly, I'd like to extend congratulations to Mayor Alan Graves on his recent appointment to lead our vibrant city, which takes great pride in its diversity and multiculturalism. Could the council please share the specific steps being taken to actively engage with and celebrate the diverse communities within Derby?

The Council takes equality, diversity and inclusion very seriously in line with its Equality Duty. We set objectives through our three-year Equality Plan, with actions recommended by the community and our colleagues, and monitored by a cross-council board. We consider equality issues in a systematic way as part of decision making through equality impact assessments, ensuring mitigation takes place where appropriate.

We recognise that groups with protected characteristics such as race, disability, age or gender are more likely to experience unfair treatment, reduced life chances and poorer outcomes. The Council is currently reviewing its Equality,

Dignity and Respect Policy and annual delivery plan. Within the plan the Council sets out activity within the community cohesion hate crime workstreams which are led by Community Safety and Localities.

In particular, we are acutely aware of the prejudice experienced by our Gypsy and Traveller communities, and the extreme right-wing activity with its focus on a variety of specific communities of which this is one. We continue to legally disrupt extreme right-wing activity or encourage counter-narratives where possible. Our Public Protection Officers also conduct positive engagement with traveller communities and seek feedback from victims to inform our response.

Community Safety now works in a placed based way to better understand and work with communities. With dedicated locality officers working within the teams there is the ability to work with all communities in a better, more joined up way. To assist in the support of community cohesion, a dedicated resource is in place within the community safety team to drive forward work around cohesion and hate crime. We work with a range of partners, including schools, to educate, challenge cultural norms and promote resilience.

Derby has a richly diverse population and this is celebrated through a series of partnership led events including the Caribbean Carnival, Windrush, International Women's Day, Derby Pride etc. The Council has engaged with communities through Community Talks events which brings together groups from diverse backgrounds to listen and understand experiences across a number of themes. This programme of Community Talks has enhanced the Council's approach of 'working with' communities, in a placed based way. The locality way of working enables the Council to work with groups in delivering vibrant cultural events.

e) Question from Alice McMichael to Cllr Hezelgrave

As a concerned citizen, I would like to inquire about the Council's efforts to welcome refugees into Derby. What initiatives and programs are in place to support refugees, and how does the council collaborate with local organizations and community groups to ensure their successful integration into our city?

We are proud of Derby and its citizens being a welcoming city to those seeking sanctuary. We have a long tradition of working with local organisations and groups through regular meetings, supporting Refugee Week, providing funds for support activities and working together to identify refugees' longer-term needs.

Looking forward – we are working with Community Action Derby and the network of community and voluntary organisations to develop and implement a New Arrivals Alliance, bringing together a range of voluntary sector organisations in Derby, in order to ensure asylum seekers and refugees receive the support at the point of need, from the most appropriate organisation(s).

f) Questions from Adrian Howlett (i), Pauline Inwood (ii), Ruth Coates (iii), Clare Wood (iv) to Cllr Swan.

i) Would the Council consider running a citizens' assembly on climate policies made up of a randomly selected group of residents according to demographic criteria to ensure everyone in Derby has a fair say on the climate strategy?

ii) On the Council website, there is a link to a United Nations list of 10 simple actions that everyone can take to reduce their carbon footprint. One of them is to “Speak up” and appeal to local and world leaders to act now. What is the best forum for concerned Derby residents to “Speak up” to the Council as recommended by the UN, and hold the Council to account if it is not acting on the climate crisis in line with science and climate policy recommendations?

iii) Will the Council either send out an information leaflet to every resident or use the Council tax letter as an opportunity to inform Derby residents about the climate emergency and explain why the net zero 2035 target for Derby is so important?

iv) Why doesn't the Council website include crucial information on the severe threats we face as a result of climate change, such as threats to water supplies and food security and risks to human health from extreme heatwaves, along with guidance about what people can personally do to fight climate change such as driving less, cutting food waste, saving energy and water at home, etc.?

I believe our manifesto clearly communicates our ambition to engage local people to do more to tackle the impacts of climate change. I am meeting stakeholders from different communities and organisations and have been inspired by desire for change and the work that is already happening.

I appreciate that there are well established communities of interest, who are passionate that this issue is taken seriously by the Council. I want to discuss how we can work together more productively and, while having a mature debate, get away from defensiveness of the past.

I am, however, very aware that this is an issue that for everyone, and I want to hear much more widely from residents, employees and even visitors on the reality of adapting and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Thank you for the suggestion of leaflets. This is quite a traditional approach and I am not convinced that it would be value for money at present. I know other Council's are looking at way people can 'speak up', such as a Citizen's Assembly, but we also have locality working and other forums where this might effectively be done.

Of course Council Questions, Scrutiny Boards and raising issues with your ward councillors, as well as members of the Cabinet, are accepted ways people can have their voice heard. I am currently considering if another form of forum would be appropriate, but in the meantime we have set up a Let's Talk Climate section of our Let's Talk Derby Platform on our website.

I want to see this evolve over the next four years as we develop a dialogue within the city. We will need to experiment with other forms of communication and work with partners to find out how best to meaningfully engage with local people. Let's Talk Climate is a great start to bring the urgency of this issue to life, but in a way that creates a positive discussion about what we can all do to make a difference.

g) Question from Derek Gould to Cllr Shanker

Why was the Reform Derby candidate not invited to the secret meeting called by Normanton ward at the doctor's surgery?

The Council is unaware of any secret meetings taking place.

h) Question from Mair Bain to Cllr S Khan

What is the Council doing to assist homeowners, renters, landlords and developers in insulating their homes to help reduce both energy bills and carbon footprints?

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has announced several retrofit fuel poverty schemes as funding opportunities for Local Authorities.

In total, over the schemes announced by DESNZ, the Council has delivered External Wall Insulation (EWI) to nearly 150 private sector homes. Furthermore, in the current scheme, the Council will complete approximately 130 measures by the end of July 2023. A further £1.9m has been awarded to deliver the Home Upgrade Grant. This targets off gas properties and low EPC rated homes in the private sector.

Under the Government's Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme, the Council can and will introduce a statement of intent to widen eligibility. Energy suppliers can achieve up to 50% of their obligation by installing energy saving measures in owner-occupied or private rented households declared eligible by themselves or local authorities.

i) Questions from Vanessa Cory (i) and Adrian Howlett (ii) to Cllr Swan

i) In the last election, many councillors ran campaigns expressing concern about the rights of motorists being threatened by sustainable transport policies. What is being done to balance the rights of motorists with the rights of all residents to have clean air and safer streets to ensure that motorists rights are not prioritised unfairly?

ii) How is the Council addressing misinformation and conspiracy theories about 15 Minute Cities, air pollution prevention which are hindrances to positive policy change for clean, safe, and sustainable transport?

Your questions highlight the challenges facing national and local government in terms of rights, responsibilities and changing behaviour. As residents we want to feel safe, enjoy good air quality and do our bit to reduce the amount of carbon we emit, because we want to be proud of the legacy we leave for our children in creating the green future of our city.

At the same time, we live on streets near or on a highway and we all have a general right to use it. We may use multiple forms of transport and most people are not simply motorists - we are all pedestrians.

Local Authorities have a duty to balance the interests of all road users, not in every location, but across the network. This is part of facilitating a functional, usable and safe highway. It does not prevent restrictions from being applied, where they meet nationally set tests to justify them.

The Council does not have a policy on 15-minute cities or 15-minute neighbourhoods. In our manifesto we are clear that we want to work with communities on neighbourhood level traffic issues and promoting active, healthy, zero carbon travel. I have already begun work with council officers on these commitments.

In the coming weeks I will be announcing the next group of School Safe Havens, which have been identified by working with schools, local groups, and Councillors. These are small steps but have the potential to lead to wider beneficial changes within local communities.

j) Question from Simon Bacon to Cllr Dhindsa

Fly tipped waste in areas of Normanton and Arboretum ward can sit uncleared for days if not weeks and often only appears to be cleared when members of the public make formal fly tip reports. What process is in place for council Streetpride staff to report such fly tips as part of their daily work schedule - noting that litter pickers and fly tip clearance staff are out in the community at least Monday to Friday?

Our teams respond and action a number of fly-tipping requests across the city. These are either reported to us from residents in the community, internal reports, or fly-tipping the team see on site and clear proactively. These are recorded on a digital system used by the service.

Within the Normanton and Arboretum areas, around 47% of fly-tipping instances do come from residents in the community, and around 53% comes from internal reports and proactive work completed by the team as and when they see this on site. There are occasions where we do leave waste on site once we have seen this, this maybe due to us investigating the waste with a view to take action, or if this is part of behaviour initiatives and campaigns to raise awareness of fly-tipping.

k) Question from Simon Beavis to Cllr Swan

Are all Councillors and Council Staff who have an influence on climate and environment policies and strategies trained in carbon literacy or already have a background in environmental science?

Over the last 18 months the Council has run carbon literacy training for staff and members. Of course, this is an on-going process, for instance there are many new councillors in this Chamber and out in our wards who I know want to understand more about climate and carbon reduction.

We also have the Climate Impact Assessment which is integrated into our decision-making process and requires our officers, Cabinet and Scrutiny colleagues to understand climate impacts.

I) Question from Clare Wood to Cllr Swan

What is the Council doing to encourage active travel?

We recently received funding from Active Travel England to extend our School Safe Haven project which aim to promote cleaner air, reduce congestion, improve road safety and increase levels of walking, wheeling and cycling in the areas immediately outside schools. These partnership schemes challenge behaviour associated with the 'school run', introduce 20mph zones, controlling access with enforcement to create an enhanced safe area.

Through the Government's Transforming Cities Fund, we are making around £10m of improvements to support active travel infrastructure. Improvements to the cycle path to Micklegate and out to Raynesway are already in place and recently we have started work on improvements from the city centre to railway and the Morledge. The e-bike scheme, provided by Lime, is being rolled out across the city and we have a small scale e-scooter trial as part of the national pilot areas.

m) Question from Tony Mott to Cllr Peatfield

**What are the ongoing options for the maintenance of Queen Street Baths?
Do the options considered include demolition?**

All options remain open at this stage. The Council has been exploring the regeneration potential of this part of the city centre and is in the process of procuring a delivery partner in order to determine the best possible outcome for the future of the QLC site and the wider area. A development brief is being prepared to support that process. While demolition of the site is a possible option, retaining use of the building or part of will also be considered, in light of our climate commitment.

n) Question from Margaret Palmer to Cllr Dhindsa

Derby City Council is at the forefront of Councils undertaking work into the local relationship between poor quality housing and poor health – this work has included a:

- a. Private sector housing Stock Condition Survey**
- b. Private Rented Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey**
- c. Housing Health Impact Assessment.**

The Housing Health Impact Assessment highlights the link that the preponderance of substandard private sector housing, identified at

a). Namely owner occupied and privately rented homes, has with poor health and premature deaths in Derby. It demonstrates that, without intervention, vulnerable occupants are being exposed to serious risks to their health and safety, resulting in avoidable illness, early mortality and an unnecessary cost burden on the NHS. The report details the impact that poor quality private sector housing has on the health of Derby's residents.

Recent government legislative changes designed to deter buy to let investment, by reducing landlord profit margins has seen many landlords leaving the market, with the 'amateur' landlord hit hardest. Should Derby mirror the national picture then around 14 per cent of the city's landlords, own just one rental property. How does the Councillor envision that these Article 4 Directions will work in concert with any selective licencing scheme without further disincentivising investment?

Article 4 is a discretionary power that councils can adopt to help to deal with the problems, in this case associated with HMOs, that are not already covered by mandatory licensing. A local authority can implement an Additional Licensing scheme provided it meets all the requirements in the Housing Act 2004 and, importantly, has consulted with everyone affected by the designation.

The Council is currently considering a range of options to improve the condition of dwellings in the city and ensure that any adverse impacts on the wider community are minimised as far as possible. Officers are currently assessing the level of evidence that has been provided, as it has to meet the requirements of Secretary of State scrutiny for any areas that we do define for an Article 4.

No decisions have currently been made but I have asked for a Cabinet report to be prepared for consideration shortly. Any such decision would be subject to full consultation and will take into account responses and wider neighbourhood objectives and priorities.

o) Question from Pauline Inwood to Cllr Swan

Derby declared a Climate Emergency over four years ago, but has done very little at all to respond to that declaration since. As we now have a brand new administration in Derby, concerned Derby residents want to know in what ways, and how urgently, the Council will respond because the need becomes ever more urgent for ourselves, and even more for the future generations.

As you would expect of a new administration, we are taking stock of what we need to do in this crucially important area. We have set out our manifesto and I believe this shows our commitment to making positive change.

I am working with officers to see what is in progress on our Council action plan and where plans need greater focus, mindful of our financial challenges. I am talking to the many and varied city stakeholders, including many of the questioners today, who are also trying to tackle climate mitigation and adaptation. We bring our Team Derby ethos, to set the tone of supportive collaboration and explore where we could make greater collective change.

p) Question from Derek Gould to Cllr Shanker

What is the procedure to ask for a full investigation into election fraud bullying and threats?

If you have witnessed electoral fraud or suspect it has taken place, you should report it by contacting the police on 101.

If you are unsure whether or not something is considered electoral fraud, please contact the Council's Elections team for advice.

q) Question from Simon Bacon to Cllr Shanker

Through the testing phase of the controversial Sinfin Incinerator on Sinfin Lane flies blighted residents in the community. When the plant closed in August 2019 the flies vanished and have not blighted residents since.

What research into that fly infestation has the council carried out as part of their multi million pound work to review the plant with the councils proposal to re-open the facility in the future and what was the conclusion of the research? Where did they come from? Why did they vanish? Why have they not come back? What will the council do when they return?

This is also a concern of mine and my views around the site are well documented.

r) Question from Ruth Coates to Cllr Shiraz Khan

I have been reading with horror about the proposed new housing development on green wedge land behind Royal Hill Road in Spondon. Understandably, local residents are extremely concerned about this. But this is not just 'nimbyism', there are huge problems that would come with this development, both environmental and practical.

Aside from the obvious outrage of building in our rapidly shrinking green surroundings with the threat to wildlife and biodiversity this entails, there is the issue of bringing increased traffic and the resulting pollution to an area where traffic is already a problem. At school drop off and pick up times, the whole village and that area in particular is choked with cars (a contentious issue in itself). The lack of a bus service round the village compounds the problem.

Then there is the pressure on the schools and the already stretched local services such as doctors etc. Spondon is really not a suitable site for such a development.

Can you reassure me that the Council will take residents' objections seriously and refuse planning permission for this ridiculous proposal?

All major planning applications will take into consideration issues such as those you raise – local services, transport, schools etc. This will be alongside consideration of our very challenging housing requirement for Derby.

Anyone can respond to a planning consultation on an application. This is in addition to individuals who might be directly affected and might include community groups and specific interest groups (locally or even nationally) who may wish to provide representations. Should this application come forward I would urge residents to do this.

s) Question from Paul Tice to Cllr Swan

I have obtained, via the Freedom of Information act, the documentation package submitted by DWT to Natural England to obtain the grant for the Derwent Forest Landscape Recovery Project which is being used for the rewilding of Allestree Park.

This package has many interesting revelations about plans for the park which it states had the full approval of Derby City Council prior to the grant being awarded. Another Freedom of Information Act request to Derby City Council has revealed there is no formal agreement in place between DCC and DWT for this project.

There are very little funds from the grant allocated for ongoing management of the park for the benefit of the community. 87% of the funds are allocated for the introduction of cattle to destroy the parkland, including installation of cattle grids and a 5km barbed wire fence around the entire perimeter of the park.

The package states that “DWT will be the primary seller of the environmental benefit”, achieved by selling green credits generated from the rewilding of Allestree Park to developers and utility companies.

Environmental benefits are going to be sold by DWT to big businesses so they can offset the impact of their operations. DWT are predicting more than £2m in potential sale of green credits from the whole project.

Derby City Council have clearly given management control of our park to DWT for the next 10 years so it can be rewilded using cattle to destroy the landscape forever without any meaningful research or evaluation of its commercial or historic worth.

Allestree Park is not and never has been an urban environment. To badge it as urban rewilding is misleading and untrue but a snappy headline to attract extra income for the project.

This project has been promoted by Derby City Council based on the environmental benefits it generates for the city.

The environmental benefit can only be claimed once. If that benefit is being sold by DWT to other parties on what basis can Derby City Council

state the environmental impact of rewilding benefits the people of Derby by offsetting its emissions and how much of the potential sales generated by DWT will be paid to Derby City Council?

The Natural England “Nature Based Solutions for Climate Fund” grant was awarded to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) to enable and support their plans to test a rewilding approach on several partner-owned sites, including Allestree Park.

Since the grant was awarded, and in response to feedback from the public, the minimal intervention approach to rewilding at Allestree Park will continue for now. This will allow us to gather more feedback so that this project, which is of national significance, can develop with public support. There are no current plans to extend the existing cattle grazing across the park, or install a perimeter fence to allow this to happen. As a result, the funding for cattle fencing and orchard creation has been reallocated for use on some of the other sites.

Regarding the “£2million credits”, there was never any intention to use Allestree Park, or indeed any Council or DWT owned land for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain credits. The grant has supported the work that DWT is currently undertaking to develop and trial a novel rewilding approach to Biodiversity Net Gain, which involves the purchase and appropriate management of new sites which are currently of very low biodiversity value, and which will be owned and managed for nature and for people, by DWT. To date no suitable sites have been identified in the Derby area.

Member Questions

t) Question from Cllr M Holmes to Cllr Swan

Mickleover has seen major housing growth with thousands of new homes built / continue to be built within the ward boundary and as urban extensions to the (city) boundary into South Derbyshire and Amber Valley.

The impact of this growth has put significant pressure on local roads, infrastructure and services.

During the prolonged planning process that involved multiple large scale applications from several developers, the ward councillors worked hard to secure 106 funding for mitigation and improvements for our community.

Whilst the scope for what could be secured was frustrating narrow, agreement for significant investments in transport and road safety measures were formally agreed and included new predestination crossings.

Some time ago, we made it clear to Derby City Council officers that we wanted priority given to the delivery of a new signalled crossing near Silverhill School, Ladybank Road with the other 106 mitigations to follow in due course.

Since then, given that there are time limits on the 106 secured, we have formally requested many times that the Silverhill crossing be progressed by officers, along with the entire 106 package secured for Mickleover Ward.

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that:

- A new signalled pedestrian crossing will be installed near Silverhill School, Ladybank Road as agreed via 106 and by Derby City Council highways and transport officers.**
- That the funding required will be drawn down so that it can be placed on the Council's capital work programme, with an indicative date of install.**
- That all other 106 mitigations for Mickleover Ward will be progressed and funding drawn down prior to the various expiry dates placed on them.**

As you know, two pedestrian crossings are in the capital programme for their development and design phase in 2023-24. Silverhill School development and

design phase will be added to the 2024-25 programme. The funding will be drawn down as they are committed within the programme. I understand that the s106 is held by the neighbouring district council as the planning authority in this case. The indicative date for delivery of all three crossings is likely to be 2024-25 and potentially into 2025/26.

The challenge, as you are aware, is not the capital cost of installation but the additional revenue cost that results from expanding the number of assets. This is particularly the pressure from energy costs. I do want to see safety facilities that encourage people to walk and cycle more, but all councillors have a responsibility to take this issue seriously when setting priorities. In the meantime, I have asked officers to work on the budget position and find ways of managing pressures.

u) Question from Cllr Smale to Cllr Shanker

Can you highlight the rationale for your choice of Cabinet please?

I appointed the best people to do the job.

v) Question from Cllr Potter to Cllr Dhindsa

What changes to the roles and responsibilities to the Public Protection Officers are envisaged under this Labour administration?

Public Protection Officers' tools and powers to tackle environmental crime and anti-social behaviour remain, however the team has integrated with localities and is working with colleagues in a place-based way to deal with localised issues.

There is a renewed focus on environmental enforcement which include dealing with fly tipping and littering behaviour using targeted action and increased penalties.

w) Question from Cllr Pearce to Cllr Dhindsa

Can the Cabinet Member please issue the full costings of clean ups in the last 12 months after travelling community ingressions?

The costs associated with cleaning up following traveller incursions are as follows:

2022 - £4,060

2023 - £1,756 to date

The costs to date do not include the recent Springwood Leisure Centre incident, as they are ongoing.

x) Question from Cllr Pandey to Cllr Dhindsa

Are clean streets a priority for this administration?

Yes.

y) Question from Cllr Hassall to Cllr Hezelgrave

What is the Cabinet's stance on racism and equalities?

The Council is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and has established a Cabinet position to provide leadership in this area.

Racism is a hate crime and should not be tolerated in any society. The Council is committed to improving community cohesion and reducing hate crime and has specific posts in the Community Safety structure responsible for this.

The Council remains committed to its contract with Stop Hate UK.

z) Question from Cllr J Wright to Cllr Shanker

I welcome your promise to keep our fantastic library on Chaddesden Park and the other libraries open and your commitment to have the process finalised in 6 to 8 months. You have said that there will be no disruption whilst the review takes place, does this mean they will continue as in 2022?

There has been a recent change to the previous direction for Community Libraries. Our plan is to continue to deliver community library services from their existing locations, alongside the statutory provision, while the review takes place.

You may recall in December 2022 the then Leader of the Council stated:

"Although we are talking about the end of the community-managed library project, we are looking to keep the more popular ones open and hope that local communities will join us in doing that in places like Spondon and Allestree."

<https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/news/derby-news/tax-rises-job-cuts-dirtier-7926660>

aa) Question from Cllr Eyre from Cllr Shanker

Were the then potential future operators of Derby's ten Community Managed Libraries, who were undertaking the approved process, informed between the conclusion of Stage 1 of the Expression of Interest (EOI) Process and the start of Stage 2 of the EOI Process, that the process might be cancelled before it reached its conclusion?

Yes, organisations who expressed an interest during the EOI process were informed that the process had been paused.

No decision has been taken to cancel the process. A report will be taken to Cabinet in August with next steps outlined and interested parties will be communicated with.

bb) Question from Cllr Lonsdale to Cllr Whitby

What provision is in place to check that children and their families living in temporary accommodation have access to sufficient and nutritious food?

A needs assessment is carried out with all homeless applicants. Where risk of food poverty is identified, we work with Food4Thought, who can supply food parcels and/or supermarket food vouchers. The Housing Options service also signpost to family breakfast clubs such as the Jubilee project.

In addition, those families open to Early Help and Children's Social Care will receive regular visits from key workers who will support with use of Family Hubs and associated programmes on budget management, healthy eating and where to access savings on cost of living moving forward.

Early Help and Children's Social Care and Derby Homes work in a joined-up way to ensure that families in temporary accommodation are in receipt of the right support and advice.

cc) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr Martin

Other members may, like me, have received emails about the Council supporting more plant-based eating. In light of this it would be useful to understand the current situation:

- **Do all city schools provide a regular vegan lunch option?**
- **How many city schools serve only vegetarian meals?**
- **Are vegan/vegetarian options available for all children in our care homes? What is the situation for children in foster care?**
- **Are vegetarian/vegan options provided in our care homes for older people?**
- **How is Council catering in other situations (such as parks cafes, for events, etc.) mindful of providing vegetarian and vegan options?**

We do not hold this information on school lunches because the Council is neither a provider nor commissioner of school meals.

Children in care who live in a children's home have choice, in that weekly planners are done which indicate what food children want to eat. Each child is catered for. There are also different cultural meals provided where required. Foster carers are able to provide specialist diets, including vegan or plant based alternatives for the children they are caring for, as and when required .

We do not operate any long-term care homes for older people. However, in our intermediate care facility, Perth House, we offer all different dietary options and specialist diets. The cook will discuss and arrange this with individuals on admission.

There are a wide range of both vegan and vegetarian options throughout the menus at all the park's cafes. There are options for breakfasts, hot drinks, main meals, cakes, ice creams and snacks. Regarding events, dietary requirements are requested from event organisers including vegan, gluten free and dairy free, to ensure that clients' needs are met.

dd) Question from Cllr Smale to Cllr Shanker

Does your position on the Sinfin Incinerator and LTW contract remain unchanged?

Yes

ee) Question from Cllr Hassall to Cllr Shanker

Is fiscal responsibility a priority for this administration?

Yes

ff) Question from Cllr Eyre to Cllr Shanker

Will the views of Library Volunteers be taken into account as part of the administration's Libraries Strategy?

Yes. Upon approval of next steps at Cabinet, a series of consultation sessions will be conducted with key stakeholders – including library volunteers.

gg) Question from Cllr Lonsdale to Cllr S Khan

What are the wait time for families in temporary accommodation such as hotels and B&Bs before more appropriate accommodation is available?

As of 30 June 2023, the average length of stay for all types of local authority temporary accommodation placements, made under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017, are as follows:

- Temporary Accommodation owned by the Local Authority 319 days
- Bed and Breakfast 48 days
- Nightly paid temporary accommodation not owned by the Local Authority 86 days

hh) Question from Care to Cllr Dhindsa

Recent publicity about single-use vapes has centred on fire danger from the vapes and their correct disposal as well as their accessibility encouraging their use by young people. What is Derby doing to combat all these risks? Is it encouraging shops that sell single use vapes to collect back used ones, or encouraging other recycling/collection systems, as for batteries?

The Council takes the risks associated with single use vapes very seriously. At present, we're working at the most senior levels, Nationally, to try and bring about tighter controls around the accessibility of these products, which should only be used as an aid to quit smoking.

Locally, a programme of disruption activities are currently underway to remove any non-compliant and counterfeit single-use vapes from the high street, and any complaints against retail premises around underage sales activity are actioned accordingly.

We do encourage the users of single use vapes to responsibly recycle their waste. This is either by returning them to the purchasing premises or taking them to the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).

ii) Question from Cllr Smale to Cllr Whitby

Can the Cabinet Member confirm with me that any deficits for Ashgate Nursery/School will not be propped up by any Council budgets and that the School's Forum budget is protected? Doing any of these would be detrimental to all remaining schools in the city, by either favouring one school because it is in the Cabinet Member's ward and/or putting pressure on other school's budgets to finance a school that can't manage its own deficit.

On 12 July 2023, Council Cabinet took the decision to undertake an appraisal to develop options to address the financial deficits at Ashgate Nursery School and Central Nursery School. Following good conversations with the nurseries, we're confident that we can work with the governors to develop a solution.

At this early stage, it is not possible to speculate on the outcome of the appraisal. However, very careful consideration will be given to any potential funding implications, as options are scoped.

If any deficit cannot be recovered by the Council, then decisions will need to be taken on how that is to be funded.

jj) Question from Cllr Lonsdale to Cllr Dhindsa

Has there been an increase in antisocial behaviour related to alcohol misuse in the past 3 years and what is being done to reduce it?

We do not currently collect or receive any data from the Police relating to anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol misuse.

In terms of general anti-social behaviour, Derby saw a 16.3% reduction in all incidents of anti-social behaviour in the year to June 2023.

As an authority we have created two Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), that tackle alcohol related nuisance and annoyance. The orders came into force from 17 January 2022 and allow authorised officers to issue fines for breaches of the included prohibitions. The PSPO covers a geographically defined area, including the City Centre.

kk) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr Swan

Please could you provide an update on the use of glyphosate and other herbicides on city land? Where are these being used, and where not?

In terms of the use of glyphosate and other herbicides, we have implemented a risk-based approach to their application. Glyphosate is currently used in limited circumstances and only as a last resort when alternative methods of weed control have been deemed ineffective or impractical. These circumstances primarily include areas where weed growth poses safety concerns, such as pavement cracks, hard surfaces, and specific targeted locations. As part of the wider weed control strategy, the following areas are currently sprayed:

1. 3,112 streets, including highways are weed sprayed and swept.
2. The Kerbsides, Wallsides, Obstacles on 375+ parks are sprayed. If required, extra application to heavily affected areas are also treated.
3. Public furniture, obstacles and fence / boundary railings are weed sprayed.
4. Private premises and other quotable works can incorporate all three operations

We avoid spraying herbicides around water courses such as streams and drains; around memorials, hedge bottoms, local nature reserves and SSSI's (Sites of Special Scientific Interest), of which Derby has one near Bolton Moor. We're also sensitive to schools and spray outside of term time.

II) Question from Cllr Smale to Cllr Whitby

Officers have explored various options in the past to mitigate Ashgate Nursery/School deficits, the latest Cabinet report from 12th July 2023 is doing the same exploration as the previous administration and will no doubt come back with the same result. What will happen should there be no sizeable mitigation of the deficit especially at the deficit amount they are both in, what will happen should the deficit remain out of the legal limit set by the Department of Education?

Following the decision of Council Cabinet on 12 July 2023, the Council will work with the governors of Ashgate Nursery School and Central Nursery School to consider options for the schools.

If no viable options are found, the Council could use its statutory powers to intervene. The Council has legal options to make necessary changes to the governing body if required, the withdrawal of delegated powers, or establish an Interim Executive Board for day-to-day management of the nurseries, including financial management. However, conversations so far have been very positive and these actions would only be taken as a very last resort.

The deficit parameters are locally defined within the Council's scheme for funding schools and are not set by the Department for Education.

mm) Question from Cllr Lonsdale to Cllr Whitby

We note that Derbyshire County Council has put up the cost of School Meals by more than 40%. Has there been any increase in school meal costs for parents in the City of Derby and is there any such increase planned?

Derby City Council does not oversee or set the fee levels for school meals. Schools and academies in Derby set their own fee levels and use their own providers.

nn) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr Swan

In light of the excessive heat being experienced on mainland Europe, what preparations (both short term and long term) have been made for this happening in Derby?

Extreme weather events, like those currently affecting southern Europe, will become more common as a direct result of climate change. We have guidance on hot and cold weather on our website:

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/>

Working together locally with other agencies and organisations, a good example the work our Climate Change Team and the University are doing on two different projects with a focus on the adaptation of care homes to extreme heat events and the development of a Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP).

We also share messages as nationally published through the heat health alerts. The national plan has been updated this year and the local response sits with the Emergency Planning team which is hosted by Derbyshire County Council.

<https://www.derbyshireprepared.org.uk/risks-derbyshire/the-risks/>

We have robust emergency and business continuity plans in place to respond to a range of different scenarios including extreme weather events. These plans are regularly reviewed and are ready to be implemented should the need arise.