



Derby City Council

**Council Meeting
Wednesday 18 July 2012**

**Public and Member Questions and
Responses**

COUNCIL – 18 JULY 2012
PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
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Public Questions

A	Dorothy Skrytek	Councillor Banwait	Waste Prevention Programme
B	Simon Bacon	Councillor Banwait	Waste Transfer Site
C	Colin Underhill	Councillor Banwait	City Road System
D	David Gale	Councillor Russell	Scrutiny of Telecommunication Mast
E	Colin Underhill	Councillor Bayliss	Removal of Trees in Riverside Gardens
F	Simon Bacon	Councillor Banwait	Mixed Recyclables Collection
G	David Gale	Councillor Russell	Replacement of ICT Systems

Councillor Questions

H	Councillor Ingall	Councillor Shanker	Long Term Empty Homes
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a. Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Councillor Banwait

When and how will the city council ensure that, in line with the Waste Hierarchy and Waste Regulations 2011, a Waste Prevention Programme is set up in Derby to avoid polluting incineration such as the O-GEN/WITHION wood waste biomass incineration plant, behind Sainsbury's and B&Q on Osmaston Park Road?

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Details of each campaign area are listed below.

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The one day session will touch on the quantity of food wasted and how this could be prevented through avoidance, better storage, a greater understanding of the dates on our food and use of leftovers. The young people will investigate food waste whilst taking part in preparing a dish made from leftover food.

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Home Composting

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Derby City Council has supported the National Home Composting Framework and promotes reduced price home compost bins through Straight Plc for many years.

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Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

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These savings were predicated on a number of operational changes to the contract which were accepted as a package and accounted for £3,540,200 to the Councils by the end of March 2015.

These savings more than cover the investment made by the Councils in the Downing Road facility which remains an asset of the Councils.

c. Question from Colin Underhill to Councillor Banwait

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I am eager to ensure that we value and support all forms of transport that help enable the people of Derby to access the services that they need. In addition to making space for the car we also need to work to encourage sustainable transport including public transport and walking and cycling. Making sure we have got the balance right is very important.

The recent announcement by the Highways Agency that they are to spend £4million improving the A38 junctions at Markeaton Island and Abbey Hill is something that I fully support but I think that more needs to be done. I am working with officers of the Council to promote more significant improvements on the A38 that will best suit the needs of those travelling into and around the city and I will support the Council in pressing for full grade separation at these junctions and at the Kingsway junction.

The main route into the city from the east, the A52 Brian Clough Way, is one location where I know there is congestion. This route and including the A61 Sir Frank Whittle Way is a major constriction on traffic entering the city and traffic simply wanting to travel around the city. I understand that potential improvements to these roads could be very expensive and I also know that without the improvements to the A38 there will always be limitations on what can be achieved.

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b. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Banwait

Many months ago at Full Council I asked Councillor Poulter a question about the demolition of the council funded waste transfer site at Downing Road which has never been used. Councillor Poulter said that the saving by doing the transfer at Raynesway covered the cost of the Downing Road facility. I asked him to prove it but he never has. So, can Councillor Poulter's replacement, Councillor Banwait, please prove to me the savings the council has gained by using the original transfer site instead of the new site funded at Downing Road by the council.

The switch from the use of the Downing Road facility to the Raynesway Waste Transfer Station was negotiated with Resource Recovery Solutions (Derbyshire) Ltd as part of a wider package of cost savings to Derbyshire County and Derby City Councils in early 2011.

These savings were predicated on a number of operational changes to the contract which were accepted as a package and accounted for £3,540,200 to the Councils by the end of March 2015.

These savings more than cover the investment made by the Councils in the Downing Road facility which remains an asset of the Councils.

c. Question from Colin Underhill to Councillor Banwait

Now connecting Derby has reached its first birthday. When is the Council going to consider other parts of the road system around the City that fail to work, such as the eastbound interchange from St. Alkmunds Way on to the A52/A61 routes?

Connecting Derby, the completion of the cities inner ring road, has been very successful in helping to keep traffic flowing into and out of the city centre. A healthy transport system is crucial to ensuring that the prosperity and economic wellbeing of the city continues to improve and that we make provision for the growth in population that is expected in coming years.

I am eager to ensure that we value and support all forms of transport that help enable the people of Derby to access the services that they need. In addition to making space for the car we also need to work to encourage sustainable transport including public transport and walking and cycling. Making sure we have got the balance right is very important.

The recent announcement by the Highways Agency that they are to spend £4million improving the A38 junctions at Markeaton Island and Abbey Hill is something that I fully support but I think that more needs to be done. I am working with officers of the Council to promote more significant improvements on the A38 that will best suit the needs of those travelling into and around the city and I will support the Council in pressing for full grade separation at these junctions and at the Kingsway junction.

The main route into the city from the east, the A52 Brian Clough Way, is one location where I know there is congestion. This route and including the A61 Sir Frank Whittle Way is a major constriction on traffic entering the city and traffic simply wanting to travel around the city. I understand that potential improvements to these roads could be very expensive and I also know that without the improvements to the A38 there will always be limitations on what can be achieved.

The Council has recently secured funding from government to improve public transport and promote sustainable transport. £2.2million has been secured under the governments Better Bus initiative which will be used to improve public transport across the city and enable some people to use the bus instead of their car. The Council has also been awarded nearly £5million to promote sustainable transport to help create economic growth and reduce carbon emissions. The Council will use this money to help create a situation where businesses can invest in the city and create jobs by making sure people travelling to work have suitable transport choices. I expect that new bus services will be created along with improved walking and cycling facilities so that everyone can get to work regardless of whether they own a car.

d. Question from David Gale to Councillor Russell

Can the Council state what action scrutiny and governance has taken to hold its planning officers to account and enforce planning law, having been alerted in writing in April 2012 to a legal precedent and at least five breaches of emergency planning law by Orange, supported by planning officers, in the erection of their 20 metre telco mast in Alvaston Old Village?

Council delegates planning decisions to its Planning Committee and the Members who serve on that committee must first undertake training in planning matters. At Planning Committee meetings they are advised by Planning officers, a senior legal officer and a Constitutional Services Officer.

Decisions of the Planning Committee are subject to external appeal and are not routinely scrutinised by other elected Members. A safeguard does exist though, as there is a procedure for Members to have the policies, practices and operational methods of any council department scrutinised.

In the case of the mast in Alvaston no elected Member has expressed a wish for the decision to be challenged.

Planning decisions will often have the potential to be unpopular, which is why so much care is taken to ensure that they are sound. Mr Gale's correspondence with us has led to a review of the decision and I am confident that the alleged breaches cannot be substantiated.

e. Question from Colin Underhill to Councillor Bayliss

I know there has been work carried out to create a supply route for the electricity to the council house, but why have at least 4 established trees been cut down in Riverside gardens along the path facing the river?

The four trees in question have been removed in preparation for the installation of the river water cooling system to the Council House. They will be replaced along with an additional six new semi-mature trees in the Autumn when we are in the appropriate planting season. The new design will provide an avenue of semi-mature trees along the front of the Council House and up to the location of the four trees that have been removed; leading on through to the other trees currently growing in the river gardens.

f. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Banwait

I welcome the recycling of waste at the kerbside which allows us to meet our targets for recycling and enables the Council to meet the goals of the waste hierarchy. However, I do not welcome the discharge of liquid wastes into the street by your dustcarts collecting mixed recyclables. Please tell me what you propose to do to address this issue which I consider a risk to human health.

We are aware of one complaint which we received on the 15th of December 2011 relating to leakage from the rear of a refuse vehicle.

The complaint was investigated and answered by email (see response below). We are not aware of any further complaints or instances of leakage from the rear of refuse vehicles.

Dear Simon

The pipe described is a drain pipe which enables liquid captured in the body of a refuse vehicle to be disposed of. These flexible pipes are housed closed until the vehicle returns to the depot – or arrives at the tip, at which time the liquid can be drained off in the appropriate manner. The frequency of drainage depends heavily on the waste streams collected. Most of the liquid however, will be deposited with the waste stream as the vehicle backs are tipped at either Raynesway or Victory Road etc

In this instance it looks as though the pipe has either worked loose or the driver has omitted to stow it back properly.

The Fleet manager has asked our Workshop Manager to check all Refuse Collection Vehicle's on 16 December to ensure that all such pipes are in the stowed position. Likewise, the Refuse Operations Manager has issued instructions to all drivers to check this item as part of their "daily check" routine – and to be vigilant when stowing these pipes away.

g. Question from David Gale to Councillor Russell

Can the council confirm that both Microsoft Dynamics CRM and Autonomy Meridio were short-listed in the evaluation process for the recent procurement of replacement CRM and Electronic Records and Document Management Systems?

The CRM Procurement final shortlist comprised Lagan and 2e2; the 2e2 proposal included the use of Microsoft Dynamics.

For the Electronic Records and Document Management system five companies submitted proposals. One of which was from Kaninos for the Autonomy RM solution and another from Serco also proposed the Autonomy RM software.

h. Question from Councillor Ingall to Councillor Shanker

Will the cabinet member detail the number of long term empty homes (10 years +) that have been brought back into use over the past 3 years?

Data snapshots provided to the City Council's Empty Homes Service by the Council Tax team suggest that the number of properties empty in excess of 10 years has reduced from 238 in 2009 to 61 in 2012, a reduction of 177.

The Empty Homes Service and related enforcement programme undertake several functions in order to help reduce the number of empty homes in the City, including:

- Advice and assistance to empty home owners
- Provision of empty homes loans to return properties to use
- Data verification exercises to increase the accuracy of available data
- Enforcement measures, including compulsory purchase, when the possibility of voluntary progress is exhausted