



Derby City Council

**Council Meeting
Wednesday 17 July 2013**

**Public and Member Questions and
Responses**

COUNCIL – 17 JULY 2013
PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
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Public Questions

A	Simon Bacon	Councillor Bayliss	Waste Recycling
B	Simon Bacon	Councillor Bayliss	Sinfin Waste Treatment Plant

Councillor Questions

C	Councillor Ingall	Councillor Bayliss	Sinfin Community Centre
D	Councillor Higginbottom	Councillor Tittley	Younger Adults Safeguarding
E	Councillor Williams	Councillor Tittley	Youth Homelessness

a. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Bayliss

In the recent review of the waste project by Cllrs Banwait and Shanker why did this not include a proposal to boost recycling to circa 70% which would have left far less residual waste to handle and would push Derby up the waste recycling league? As an example a number of councils even now attain recycling rates close to 70% such as the Vale of the White Horse.

During 2012-13, out of 352 "Collection", "Unitary" and "Waste Disposal" authorities, 9 local authorities achieved better than 60% recycling. We applaud those authorities in their success. However, typically they are very different places to Derby which was positioned in the top half of all local authority recycling performances for that year.

The citizens of Derby are experienced and capable recyclers and when compared with other Unitary Authorities in England, they were in the top 25% in terms of their household waste recycling performance for 2012-13. Indeed only one large city in England, Hull, performed better than Derby during that year.

The City Council makes a point of benchmarking recycling performances with similar authorities in order that we can compare like with like. It is not appropriate to compare with local authorities where the layout, social issues and demographic make-up is dissimilar.

Derby City Council along with all the District Collection Authorities in the Derbyshire Waste Partnership target to achieve at least the national target of 50% household waste recycling by 2020 and aspire to achieve 55%.

This will be a stretching target which if achieved will certainly maintain Derby as being amongst the very best household waste recyclers when compared with similar Cities and Unitary Authorities.

Whilst we will continue to increase recycling and minimise waste, we still have a statutory responsibility to manage and dispose of the waste and the recent review concluded that the proposed waste plant provides a viable and effective means of doing this.

b. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Bayliss

Noting the public fear of the Sinfin incineration plant proposal why has the Council not required constant dioxin monitoring which can now be done (over an extended period of weeks) and is used at the Isle of Man incineration plant?

The Council are not in a position to require constant dioxin monitoring. Dioxins are not one of the pollutants local authorities are required to consider under local air quality management requirements.

Controlling the airborne emissions from the plant is the responsibility of the Environment Agency via the environmental permit that they issue to the site operator. An emission limit for dioxins is included in the current permit along with the criteria about how this needs to be monitored.

Any specific queries about the permit should be addressed with the Environment Agency.

c. Question from Councillor Ingall to Councillor Bayliss

A section 146 Notice on Suport Ltd (leaseholder) of Sinfin Community Centre was signed off from Legal services on the 24th Oct 2012 and yet was not served until 29th May 2013. Why did it take over 30 weeks to serve?

The service of the Notice was initially delayed as additional information on the condition of the building was required to be included in the Notice. This was obtained just before Christmas 2012. Unexpected significant work priorities within the legal section combined with reduced staffing resources then meant that it was not possible to complete the process until 30 May 2013.

d. Question from Councillor Higginbottom to Councillor Tittley

Can the Cabinet member assure Council that, when contracts are let for younger adults, safeguarding is an important aspect of the procurement process when the consideration is undertaken?

All contracts that are procured by way of tender have a dedicated section on safeguarding matters. Five questions are asked of all bidders, and often supplementary questions are expected to be answered in a bidder's "method statement" i.e. their response to the service specific elements of the tender. Safeguarding is indeed an important aspect of the process and therefore bidders will fail this section of the tender if they fail to provide satisfactory answers to any of the questions posed. The questions include detailed information about policies and procedures, an organisation's approach to criminal record checks and also disclosures about any previous action taken against them in the last 5 years under Adult or Children Safeguarding legislation, including any prosecutions or civil court actions.

Extract from tender document overleaf.

J	Safeguarding	
<p>The Council will evaluate this section on a pass or fail basis. The following will constitute a fail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation being unable to satisfactorily answer yes to questions 1 – 4 • The organisation being unable to provide written, reviewed and dated policies of less than three years old • The organisation being unable to provide a satisfactory response to question 5, if answered yes, showing corrective action and remedies 		
J1	Does your organisation have a written Adults Safeguarding policy?	Yes No
	If yes , please provide copies of the policies and any relevant supporting information.	
J2	Does your organisation have a written Children's Safeguarding policy?	Yes No
	If yes , please provide copies of the policies and any relevant supporting information.	
J3	Does your organisation carry out Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on all employees?	Yes No
	If yes , please provide any relevant supporting information and copies of the policy/procedure.	
J4	Does your organisation have the capability to deliver the safeguarding aspects of the contract?	Yes No
	If yes, please explain how.	
J5	Has your organisation within the last 5 years had legal action taken against them under Adult or Children Safeguarding legislation, including any prosecutions or civil court actions?	Yes No

	If “Yes” please give details and what subsequent action has been taken by the organisation to remedy and prevent similar occurrences in the future.

e. Question from Councillor Williams to Councillor Tittley

Doesn't the Council value our youth homeless the same way as our adult homeless?

The Council has a statutory duty under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, to assist 16/17 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. In order to address this, there is a joint housing protocol between Children and Young People's Services and Adults, Health & Housing that sets out how Council departments and partner agencies will work together to prevent homelessness affecting vulnerable young people.

The thrust of our approach is homelessness prevention i.e avoiding the need to use the statutory provisions that are set out in law as a last resort for people whose homelessness cannot be prevented.

In 2013 (April – March) only 1 young person required full assistance under the legislation. All other young people were supported under the protocol to access alternative housing and support. Some of this unfortunately requires the use of bed and breakfast accommodation and 26 young people were supported in this way temporarily in 2012/13. As an alternative to B&B, the Council makes use of a range of supported housing, some of which is paid for by the housing related support budget, some purely by housing benefit. The housing related support budget has been the subject of cuts in the past two years, however some funding has been retained to provide at least 30 accommodation places for emergency accommodation for vulnerable young people, although our Housing Options team and CYP are exploring other options, such as the development of "night stop" services whereby a young person stays in the home of a trained volunteer on a very short term basis, typically whilst a longer term solution is discussed.