



Council Meeting  
Wednesday 23 November 2016

Public and Member Questions  
and Responses



Derby City Council



**COUNCIL – 23 November 2016**  
**PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Subject</b>
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**Public Questions**

<b>A</b>	Gaurav Pandey	Councillor Afzal	Boulton Ward Neighbourhood Board
<b>B</b>	Dorothy Skrytek	Councillor Shanker	Hazardous Waste
<b>C</b>	Simon Bacon	Councillor Banwait	Councillor Social Media Policy
<b>D</b>	Rob Cooper	Councillor Banwait	Communications Costs
<b>E</b>	Brendan Connelly	Councillor Rawson	Mad Hatter's Tea Room Savings
<b>F</b>	Lynn Lambert	Councillor Repton	Sustainability Transformation Plan
<b>G</b>	David Gale	Councillor Bolton	Records Management Infrastructure
<b>H</b>	Kate Mosley	Councillor Banwait	Declarations of Interest
<b>I</b>	Gaurav Pandey	Councillor Shanker	New Pool
<b>J</b>	Dorothy Skrytek	Councillor Rawson	Central Library
<b>K</b>	Simon Bacon	Councillor Afzal	Raynesway Tip
<b>L</b>	Rob Cooper	Councillor Banwait	Hefei Delegation
<b>M</b>	Brendan Connelly	Councillor Rawson	Mad Hatter's Tea Room Opening Hours

**Councillor Questions**

<b>N</b>	Councillor Graves	Councillor Rawson	Mad Hatters Tea Room
<b>O</b>	Councillor Webb	Councillor Banwait	Registration Services
<b>P</b>	Councillor M Holmes	Councillor Banwait	Derby Arena Business Rates
<b>Q</b>	Councillor Poulter	Councillor Banwait	Urgent Leader Meetings
<b>R</b>	Councillor Barker	Councillor Afzal	City Centre Anti-Social Behaviour
<b>S</b>	Councillor Harwood	Councillor Rawson	Derby Live Festive Entertainment
<b>T</b>	Councillor Skelton	Councillor Russell	Ivy House EHCPs
<b>U</b>	Councillor Graves	Councillor Banwait	Council Communications
<b>V</b>	Councillor M Holmes	Councillor Afzal	Impact of New Homes
<b>W</b>	Councillor Graves	Councillor Banwait	Disclosure of Information



# Public Questions



**a. Question from Gaurav Pandey to Councillor Afzal**

**What happened to the neighbourhood group at Boulton Ward?**

It is not clear which neighbourhood group the question is referring to but I assume it relates to the Boulton Neighbourhood Board. This Board continues to operate as a leadership group for the neighbourhood, with a range of priorities, action plan and projects to improve the neighbourhood and engage local people. It meets quarterly and is open to local residents, businesses, and partners to attend and contribute to its work within the neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood working is a key priority for this administration, to help the council work with local people, identify local issues and deliver solutions.

**b. Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Councillor Shanker**

**A new 'experimental' incinerator application has been made for Alfreton Road, which will burn refuse derived fuel, basically from municipal waste.**

**This contains hazardous waste (E.g. low-energy lightbulbs containing mercury). The company Envirofusion has wrongly stated on the application form that there is no hazardous waste and no trade effluent, so where is the toxic ash and quenchwater/wastewater from the incineration process being dumped?**

The Council has received an application for an Environmental Permit for this temporary site. Consideration of this permit application is still at a very early stage and I am therefore unable to comment on any specific aspects of the application at this stage. However, I can confirm that all environmental concerns for land, water and air will be considered as part of this process and appropriate conditions attached to the Permit where necessary for the control of pollution.



**c. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Banwait**

**Many Derby City Councillors use the social media platform known as Twitter. Many appear named as Councillors or their profile alludes to the fact they are Councillors. I am aware of a number of Derby residents who have been blocked from engaging with Derby Councillors on Twitter which undermines resident engagement with council representatives.**

**What policy is in place to control Councillor use of social media such as Twitter so that public engagement with Councillors is protected?**

The Council has no jurisdiction over the personal social media accounts of elected members.

Councillors are under no obligation to engage with members of the public via Twitter or any other social media platform. Engagement with councillors can be carried out via any number of methods, including but not limited to email, telephone, surgeries or COPs events.

**d. Question from Rob Cooper to Councillor Banwait**

**How much money does the authority spend on Communications functions currently per year, before the new Communication consultant is in post?**

In 2011/12 the Council spent £503,335 on its communications staff. This has reduced every year since then (as shown in the table below) and for the 2016/17 financial year the forecast budgeted spend is £324,980 on staffing.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Communications Spend</b>
2011/12	£503,335
2012/13	£469,078
2013/14	£405,491
2014/15	£383,139
2015/16	£298,429

The Council's Communications and Consultation Team consists of a number of very different roles. The Council has not employed dedicated Press Officers since 2011.

The Council's Communications Team currently consists of 12.7 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff. The posts are either funded by specific projects – such as Our City Our River; Fostering & Adoption or Local Sustainable Transport (3 FTE – all temporary funded posts) and therefore do not handle media enquiries, are Creative Designer Officers (1.5 FTE), the Departmental Assistant (1 FTE), Internal Communications (1 FTE – temporary funded post) or Digital Communication Officers (2 FTE – temporary funded post) – none of whom handle media enquiries.

There are therefore only 2.2 Communications Officer posts in the Communications Team that handle media enquiries as part of their job description (2.2 FTE). Media enquiries are also handled by the Head of Communications and Consultation (1 FTE) and Senior Communications Officer (1 FTE) by exception, either due to lack of office cover or a specific high profile issue.

The team also includes a Business Development Officer. This post is self-funding and is responsible for generating over £200,000 of advertising and sponsorship income for the Council every year.

In a benchmarking report published in September 2016 comparing 35 local authorities, the average communications budget in larger authorities (the category in which Derby is listed) was £601,197.

**e. Question from Brendan Connelly to Councillor Rawson**

**How much will the council taking 'in house' the Mad Hatters Tea room in Alvaston Park save the authority on a yearly basis?**

The decision to allow the lease agreement to expire on the café outlet at Alvaston Park, currently known as the Mad Hatters Tea Room, has been made as part of the overall 'delivering differently' approach that is being developed within the Leisure, Culture and Tourism department.

The current approved Council Budget requires that these services become very much more commercial in the way that they deliver the service and find alternative forms of income or funding to sustain their future delivery. Whilst the potential income from this one site could be argued to be relatively small, taking this opportunity will allow the consideration of other opportunities within the park, as well as enabling the benefits of economies of scale which will accrue to the in-house catering service, when combined with the other opportunities across the leisure, culture and parks services. Bringing the catering outlets together under one delivery arrangement will enable the future longer term options to be maximised.

We are forecasting that the future net income to the Council from operating this site could be in the order of £15-20,000 per annum. However there are likely to be other efficiencies that would be realised across the catering service.

In addition, the Council has been in discussion with the tenants around the possible transfer of employment of the existing café staff. This would protect jobs for those individuals working at the café, although the initial response from the tenants indicated that there was no interest in that option.

**f. Question from Lynn Lambert to Councillor Repton**

**Derby Save Our NHS campaigners note the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans will:**

- 1. Contribute to cuts of at least £2.5 billion nationally this year, and £22 billion within the next five years, to wipe out the so-called financial deficit.**
- 2. Achieve this by implementing 'new models of care' that are set out in NHS England's 5-Year Forward View (2014)**
- 3. Limit NHS bodies in how they can oppose these cuts because they risk losing access to the £8 billion NHS Transformation Fund.**

**Will Derby City Council delay its sign up to any STP proposals until details, including the extent of the cuts, have been published and genuine consultations have taken place?**

It is more apparent to me than ever before that health and social care services need to be integrated and considered together in any debate or plan about the care and welfare of the public. For the first time, an NHS led plan recognises the importance of social care in the whole health and care economy and this is something that must be welcomed.

I have encouraged the early release of the Derbyshire STP to the public, as I and my County colleagues wish to be as transparent and open about the local plan. Derbyshire health and care organisations have come together to formulate a plan which would start to create a more community based preventative health and care offer to the public, over the next five years. This will better meet the care needs of many people and in particular the elderly and those with long term conditions. This is something that people tell us they want to happen as some of the thinking in the plan precedes the STP.

It must be remembered that the STP attempts to address not only the financial gap you highlight above but more importantly in my view, the health inequality and the quality of care gaps, that exist in our current system. These are genuine issues locally which I as a system leader am determined to address to fulfil my responsibility to the public.

I am reliably informed by health experts that investment in prevention and early intervention are cost effective and produce better outcomes for people. It also means that we can reduce the need for more costly interventions in a hospital

setting, but recognising that hospital treatment is important for those who need acute medical attention and planned health care.

Both the Derby City and Derbyshire County Health and Well Being Boards have considered the plans and are supportive of the general direction of travel outlined in the STP.

I think it was regrettable that NHSE took the view not to consult openly earlier in the planning process. However, I am reassured that there shall be full and frank consultation taking place on the proposals contained in the plan in the very near future.

There are many services covered by the plan, the detail about how these services may change is work in progress. The exploration of doing things differently to improve services is important and something which I support. I shall remain open minded about the plan whilst further detail emerges.

What I can reassure you and the public about is that I am committed to a properly funded high quality health and care service in Derby. The Council shall not sign up to any detailed proposal that I feel compromises citizens' health and care.

**g. Question from David Gale to Councillor Bolton**

**Can the Council confirm that, as a result of the £257,554 'Project Phoenix' 2014-15 expenditure with private supplier Best Practice Group PLC, steps will now be taken to ensure that the council's records management infrastructure will be restored to its 2008 capabilities, thus ensuring that information held by the council on children at risk of harm is secured in line with the council's statutory responsibilities?**

The Council takes its responsibility to secure records on children at risk of abuse and neglect very seriously and will continue to do so in line with its statutory responsibilities.

**h. Question from Kate Mosley to Councillor Banwait**

**Can I be confident that councillors, co-opted members and independent members declarations on CMIS are correct before I view again?**

Following the Local Elections in May, all councillors were requested to carefully review their Declarations of Interest. This exercise has now been completed and all Declarations of Interest are available for public inspection on the Council's website. Co-opted members and other non-elected persons attending council meetings are also required to complete Declarations of Interest. These too are in the process of being updated. It should be noted, however, that it is the responsibility of each individual to ensure that their form is up to date.



**i. Question from Gaurav Pandey to Councillor Shanker**

**Council has promised a new pool by 2018. Has any site been confirmed yet? When is the work going to start for this new pool?**

The Council recognises the importance of sports such as swimming and has announced its ambitious plans to build a new swimming pool complex for the city.

A Feasibility Study is being carried out at Moorways and once this report has been received by the Council it will be possible to determine whether the location of the new pool will be at the site. Subject to Moorways being feasible, it is hoped to start on site by late 2017. A detailed project plan will be created and communicated. We are keen to deliver this exciting project as soon as feasibly possible.

**j. Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Councillor Rawson**

**The central library was donated to the people of Derby by Michael Thomas Bass and is protected by the same covenant which prevented the council from destroying Bass Recreation Ground. What did the Charity Commission tell the council, when they learned that the community is to lose this valuable resource?**

The Council are in the process of undertaking the relevant investigatory work and due diligence around the Central Library in order to assess the potential options and future use for the building. We will be in a position to answer this question fully once these investigations have concluded.

**k. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Afzal**

**The Raynesway tip saga continues with extensive queues with little if any action from the council or its service provider to address this situation. Derby as an expanding city has circa 250,000 residents to use just one tip where as our neighbours out in the county have one tip for every circa 86,000 residents. Noting this gross imbalance in service provision, what does the council propose to do to seriously improve the provision of tip services to the residents of Derby?**

In recent years the number of visitors to the centre has increased and at busy times we know the site creates challenges. There are predictable peak periods of demand at bank holiday weekends and some weekends during the summer months. In the main, the peak demands placed on the recycling centre are outside the typical Monday to Friday times.

We have been working with the site operators to try to identify potential improvements to the site. While we do not yet have a defined option or a firm timescale for delivery I am hopeful that we will within the next two months.

# **I. Question from Rob Cooper to Councillor Banwait**

**What has the council done to ensure the potential deal with Hefei is ethical, considering various human rights issues in China?**

The relationship that Derby is seeking to forge with Hefei is still at a very early stage. As such there are no deals that have been prepared yet. There is a strong likelihood that several key projects will emerge in our dialogue over the coming year or two.

Naturally Derby City Council will want to take great care in our due diligence process to ensure that resulting investments have been made ethically. Members will receive periodic reports about progress and there will be opportunities to review and challenge any deals before they are concluded.

**m. Question from Brendan Connelly to Councillor Rawson**

**What will the projected opening hours be for the council ran tea room its taking over from the Mad Hatters Tea room in Alvaston Park be and what will the staffing levels be?**

The Council will maintain the opening hours operated under the existing contract arrangements. The appropriate staffing levels will be put in place, reflecting the seasonal nature of the business.



# Councillor Questions





**n. Question from Councillor Graves to Councillor Rawson**

**The owner of the Mad Hatters Café on Alvaston Park has been given notice of termination of their current lease when it runs out in March 2017. Can you explain why an SME has been treated so badly by Derby City Council? A family run company that created a wonderful café experience from nothing when the new pavilion was built.**

**The council hopes to double its income by £5,000 a year yet thinks nothing of increasing spending £60,000 on a part time consultant and another £60,000 on political assistants. Perhaps you could also explain why Alvaston's two very active UKIP councillors were not informed of these draconian plans?**

The lease on the café outlet is due to expire on 31 March 2017. This was the agreement that both the tenant and landlord agreed to; there is no commitment beyond this date from either party. This is how the lease was agreed between both parties. The Council has not given notice of termination; the Council has given notice of its decision not to offer a future lease of the site. The Council, as landlord, is under no obligation to give any notice of its future intentions – as a responsible landlord the Council felt that it was appropriate to confirm the intention not to consider a new lease, but to bring the operation of the a café in-house.

I would therefore strongly suggest that the Council has not badly treated this tenant. Having given the tenant six months notice of the Council's intention, this gives the tenant reasonable time for them to pursue alternative business opportunities. In addition, the Council has been in discussion with the tenants around the possible transfer of employment of the existing café staff. This would protect jobs for those individuals working at the café, although the initial response from the tenants indicated that there was no interest in that option.

The decision to allow the lease agreement to expire on the café outlet at Alvaston Park has been made as part of the overall delivering differently approach that is being developed within the Leisure, Culture and Tourism department. The current approved Council Budget requires that these services become very much more commercial in the way that they deliver the service and find alternative forms of income or funding to sustain their future delivery. Whilst the potential income from this one site could be argued to be relatively small, taking this opportunity will allow the consideration of other opportunities within the park, as well as enabling the benefits of economies of scale which will accrue

to the in-house catering service, when combined with the other opportunities across the leisure, culture and parks services. Bringing the catering outlets together under one delivery arrangement will enable the future longer term options to be maximised.

Lease discussions are sensitive and confidential and therefore it was not considered appropriate to discuss the situation with ward councillors from any political party before informing the tenants.

**o. Question from Councillor Webb to Councillor Banwait**

**Royal Oak House provides a professional registration service in a calm, safe and relaxed environment at what can be a time of stress for those attending, which the majority of Derby residents will use at least once in a lifetime.**

**Can the Cabinet Member explain why, when we have a specifically re-designed award winning building at Royal Oak House as a Register Office that we are still using for Marriages, services have been moved into the Council House for the registration of Births and Deaths?**

The Registration Service moved to the Council House on 11 January 2016, together with extended use of facilities at the Royal Derby Hospital, are part of a continued programme of service development to add much needed resilience to support the service as a whole.

The public feedback has been very positive about the transfer of the service and the General Register Office has been very complimentary about the accessibility and the innovative use of the customer areas in the Council House reception area.

Royal Oak House is now a corporate building used by a number of departments and it still does host the statutory marriage rooms. However, the Council House is also licensed for marriages.

The Council House has now replaced Royal Oak House as the official Registry Office.

**p. Question from Councillor M Holmes to Councillor Banwait**

**Can the Cabinet Member explain:**

**The total amount of NNDR (Business Rates) that Derby City Council are required to pay from the Derby Arena per financial year.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount £s</b>
2014/15	£153,513.70
2015/16	£616,250.00
2016/17	£621,250.00

**The amount that Derby City Council underestimated the total amount of Derby Arena NNDR (Business Rates) that need to be accounted for in councils budget per financial year.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Business Rates in budget £s</b>	<b>Actual Business Rates £s</b>	<b>Difference £s (a minus figure indicates a budget pressure)</b>
2014/15	£408,000	£153,513.70	£254,486.30
2015/16	£416,160	£616,250.00	-£200,090.00
2016/17	£424,483	£621,250.00	-£196,767.00
2017/18	£424,483	£633,600	-£209,117.00

**How the council proposes to deal with the budget pressure presented by the underestimate of Derby Arena NNDR (Business Rates) in the current financial year and in future years.**

In the current financial year the pressure is being absorbed by the Directorate, through early achievement of savings. In future years as part of the MTFP, the Arena is planned to breakeven with all subsidy removed by 2018/19. Work has already commenced to make this possible.

Pressures from 2017/18 until 2018/19 will need to be addressed within the MTFP.

**q. Question from Councillor Poulter to Councillor Banwait**

**Over the last 12 months, can the leader of the council please detail:**

**How many Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meetings have been held and the dates of those meetings.**

**The amount of Derby City Council funding / funds that have been agreed at each Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meetings along with the cumulative amount of all.**

**How many Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meetings involved confidential 'pink papers' (exclusion of the press and public).**

**Will he also clarify in relation to any of the decisions made, whether any of the documents themselves, the decisions made or any financial details relating to these decisions, still remain confidential or not available to the public. Please indicate any items which are still subject to on going restrictions.**

Number of Urgent Leader of the Council meetings: 12  
Number of matters considered at meetings: 14  
Number of exempt matters: 5  
Total costs committed (see below narrative): £1.415m

Date	Item	Summary of decision	Exemptions
10 December 2015	Proposal to relocate Registration Services – Consultation outcome	Grant authority to proceed with relocation	None
14 January 2016	Submission of Bid to Transport Delivery Excellence Fund for Cycle Network improvements	Approval of bid submission	None
29 February 2016	Proposed Single Discretionary Award Policy	Approving detail of consultation	None
31 March 2016	Submission of Bid to Growth and Housing Fund to support A52 Scheme	Approval of bid submission	None
21 April 2016	Queens Leisure Centre – Urgent Repairs	Approval of £550,000 investment in urgent repairs from reserves	Exempt

30 June 2016	Local Land Charges – statutory cost increases	Approval of fee increases to cover additional cost	None
	Submission of bid to What Works Fund	Approval of bid submission	None
30 August 2016	Review of Nursery Provision	Approve arrangements, including TUPE, for contract with third party deliver of service	Exempt
14 September 2016	Building Consultancy Project	Delegate authority to an officer for finalisation of contractual matters	None
13 October 2016	Christmas Ice Rink	Approval of partnership arrangements including use of £104,000 from reserves	None
19 October 2016	Revision to Legal Agreement	Approve variation of a legal agreement to reduce overall risk to council	Exempt
28 October 2016	Queens Leisure Centre – Family Pool Roof	Approval of contract waivers to proceed with repairs and approval of £516,000 from reserves	Exempt
18 November 2016	Submission of Bid to Air Quality Grant Scheme 2016-7	Approval of bid submission	None
	Moorways Feasibility Study and Masterplan	Approve use of £245,000 and contract award relating to Moorways feasibility	Exempt

**r. Question from Councillor Barker to Councillor Afzal**

**Many recent concerns have been raised regarding reported incidents of street drinking, violence and drug dealing particularly in the City Centre which are having a seriously detrimental effect on local businesses and the public.**

**Can the Cabinet Member explain how the partnership arrangement under the banner of 'Purple Flag' is being utilised to help tackle these issues?**

Purple Flag is an evening and night time economy accreditation scheme and focuses on what happens between 5.00PM to 6.00AM. It is based on assessing 30 criteria around five key themes, including crime and disorder. Some key factors in Derby's success in achieving accreditation are:

- Its night time economy is flourishing with greater diversity and new venues.
- The reintroduction of CCTV and co-ordinated Pubwatch radio communication at key periods of the weekend
- Supporting services such as the Street Pastors and Taxi Marshals
- Police and Council officers working in partnership across the city centre
- Local businesses working in co-operation with partners to provide a safe and enjoyable night out.

The issues raised by Councillor Barker, such as highly-visible day-time anti-social behaviour (including some criminal activity), are quite separate from Purple Flag, which is not an appropriate tool for addressing them. However, tackling these issues will also require a partnership approach and Council officers are currently working with partners including the Police and voluntary groups, to develop a new strategy. This will include a range of approaches, both statutory and non-statutory, around the key themes of education, encouragement, enforcement and exit.

**s. Question from Councillor Harwood to Councillor Rawson**

**Knowing the financial constraints imposed this year can the Cabinet Member explain why Derby Live have failed, in the last twelve months, to take any proactive steps towards ensuring suitable alternative festive arrangements were made for the City Centre to provide entertainment for the public and offer much needed support to local businesses during the Christmas period?**

Despite the unprecedented financial challenges and reductions in core revenue budgets, I believe that the city offer over the Christmas period remains positive. Throughout 2016, Derby LIVE has taken a pro-active approach to sourcing replacement methods of funding, and/or facilitating alternative, more cost-efficient, activities and provisions.

The programme of Christmas activities and provisions is below, elements of which will be new to the city and/or include new approaches to resourcing:

*CQ BID: Knickerbocker Glorious*

No direct costs to the Council for this, only in-kind support from Derby LIVE.

*Sheena Holland's Night Market and Day Market*

No direct costs to the Council for this, but requiring significant in-kind support from Derby LIVE.

*Winter Wonderland, Market Hall*

A transformation of the Market Hall and its entrances, created by Furthest from the Sea with the Market Hall Traders, Derby LIVE, Markets section of the Council and other partners.

*Captain Sprout and the Christmas Pirates, Guildhall Theatre*

Co-production between Derby LIVE and Babbling Vagabonds.

*Ice Rink, Market Place*

A unique private/public partnership between the Cathedral Quarter BID, 3aaa, Derby City Council and ice rink providers Showplace.

*Cinderella, Derby Arena*

Pantomime co-production between Derby LIVE and Paul Holman Associates; starring Mrs Brown's Boys' Eilish O'Carroll and EastEnders' West End star Richard Blackwood.



Of course, we also had the very successful Christmas lights switch on led by 'Brilliant Communities' and supported by in-house Council resources.

**t. Question from Councillor Skelton to Councillor Russell**

**I have received reports that a number of children at Ivy House School have been sent home because their EHCPs cannot be fulfilled. Why is this happening and what is being done to resolve this so that the children can return to school?**

I have been presented with no information to suggest that any EHCP plan has been unfulfilled leading to a child being sent home. However, Ivy House did recently have to send some children home due to health service staffing shortages.

On Thursday 17 November 2016, one of the nursing team was ill. In the event of absence by any of the nursing staff, the NHS would provide supply staff. However, when it is unable to do so, due to a demand for specialist nurses in other services, the school must act within the interest of the health and safety of the child, which is of paramount importance.

As was the case on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, when one of the nursing team reported in ill, cover was not able to be provided by the health team and the school had to inform the parents of nine children with special health care needs to keep them away from school, as they could not provide a safe level of care with the available staffing levels.

The following day, the school contacted parents of 16 children advising them that they could not accommodate them due to the nursing staff shortage.

School remained open throughout for the majority of children.

The school is talking directly to their health provider regarding staffing levels.

**u. Question from Councillor Graves to Councillor Banwait**

**The Council employs eight people in the communications team. Why does the council require a communications consultant at a cost of £60,000 to join them? With so many cuts to services, whatever reason you give will not make sense to the general public.**

As I indicated in the earlier response to a public question, in 2011/12 the Council spent £503,335 on its communications staff. This has reduced year-on-year and for the 2016/17 financial year the forecast budgeted spend is £324,980 on staffing.

In a benchmarking report published in September 2016 comparing 35 local authorities, the average communications budget in larger authorities (the category in which Derby is listed) was £601,197.

We are looking to appoint a consultant to assist the Council in how we communicate with residents on our financial position, and the decisions we need to take with regard to how our budget is spent over the next three years. With the significant financial challenges this authority faces, we believe that it is vitally important that we communicate these messages in ways that the residents and businesses of the city understand. The communications consultant is being appointed to provide us with innovative ways of doing this.

We have set aside £60,000 to fund the appointment. This is the maximum amount the Council has allocated to this Contract although it is anticipated that the actual amount spent with the appointed consultant will be considerably less.

**v. Question from Councillor M Holmes to Councillor Afzal**

**The number of the new homes already built, being built or proposed to the West of Derby / directly attached to the Western City boundary number around 3300 dwellings.**

**Can the Cabinet Member explain what work is being done by Derby City Council to properly assess and mitigate for the cumulative impact on:**

- **The local highways infrastructure.**
- **The Uttoxeter New Road corridor from Littleover / Mickleover into Derby City Centre and Kingsway / A38 that are already experiencing congestion issues at peak times.**

The mitigation package associated with the development sites to the south and west of the city are included within the Core Strategy, which was approved by full Council on 26 November 2014.

The main component of the mitigation package is the proposed creation of a 'South Derbyshire Integrated Transport Link' (SDITL). In addition to the SDITL the improvement that is likely to have the most significant impact on this part of the highway network is the grade separation of the A38 junctions through Derby, which is due to be undertaken by Highways England commencing in 2020.

Other highway improvements which are likely to have a significant impact in the Mickleover area include:

1. The provision of traffic signals at the junction of Radbourne Lane and the A52, likely to be delivered in Spring 2017 and;
2. A roundabout at the junction of Station Road and Radbourne Lane to mitigate development at Hackwood Farm. The timing of the construction of the roundabout has to be agreed with the Council before any development can commence on Hackwood Farm.

In addition to physical improvements, the planning consent for Hackwood Farm requires the provision of a bus service to serve the new housing.

The Secretary of State (SoS) granted planning consent on appeal for 300 dwellings at New House Farm to the west of Mickleover with access direct to the

A516. Following the SoS decision, South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) decided to allocate additional land for 1650 homes (including the 300), at the New House Farm site, known as Land West of Mickleover, at the main modification stage of their plan making process.

Derby City Council made representations in respect to the late inclusion of this housing allocation. Following discussions we secured an agreement with South Derbyshire and Derbyshire County Council to amend the Local Plan policy to require the New House Farm developers to undertake a strategic highway assessment of the site. The assessment to be undertaken will match that which had been carried out for all of the major sites within the HMA, with a view to identifying if further strategic highway improvements will be required to mitigate the impact of the New House Farm development. This assessment work is ongoing and the results of the strategic assessment will inform any planning application.

**w. Question from Councillor Graves to Councillor Banwait**

**In relation to The Data Protection Act 1998, Government advice states “it is at the discretion of the local authority whether to not to rely on (that) exemption(s) or publish (the) data. Local authorities should start from the presumption of openness and disclosure of information, and not rely on exemptions to withhold information unless absolutely necessary”**

**It further states “The Data Protection Act 1998 does not restrict or inhibit information being published about councillors or senior local authority officers because of the legitimate public interest in the scrutiny of such senior individuals and decision makers”**

**Even after the Grant Thornton Public Interest Report which highlighted the culture of secrecy and skulduggery, this culture still exists. Not one councillor has been reprimanded in any way, by the local authority or by their respective party. When will the current leadership make the necessary changes of attitude for the reputation of our council?**

As Councillor Graves will be aware from reading the Report in the Public Interest, the Standards Committee did take appropriate action against former councillor, Philip Hickson, for his breach of data protection.

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on current action being taken as that is the subject of an on-going standards complaint – an issue I am sure you are aware of by virtue of your membership on the Standards Committee.