



Council Meeting
Wednesday 22 November 2017

Public and Member Questions
and Responses



Derby City Council

COUNCIL – 22 November 2017
PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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Public Questions

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B	Brendan Connelly	Councillor Afzal	Nottingham Road Cemetery
C	Lynne Evans	Councillor Afzal	Dustbins left on streets
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X	Councillor Care	Councillor Banwait	Local impact of Brexit
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Z	Councillor Willoughby	Councillor Banwait	Senior management restructure
ZA	Councillor Poulter	Councillor Banwait	LGA Corporate Peer Challenge
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Public Questions

a. Question from David Gale to Councillor Rawson

Will the council confirm that it paid over £3 million to the Isle of Man based developer of the Copper Building at One Friar Gate Square, and what monies were recovered from the developer (per email of 08.06.15 from DCC Legal Officer) following the agreed lease of the building to the University of Derby.

The council provided a development loan of up to £3.5m to Lowbridge (Derby) Ltd, Douglas, Isle of Man. The loan agreement was signed on 10 January 2012.

I can confirm that the principal loan and interest accrued was repaid to the council in full on 8 June 2015.

b. Question from Brendan Connelly to Councillor Afzal

What is the total cost for the upkeep of Nottingham Road Cemetery?

It is not possible to provide the separate cost of the upkeep of Nottingham Road Cemetery as the cemeteries budget covers the upkeep of all the city cemeteries including Spondon, Chellaston, Normanton and Uttoxeter New Road, in addition to Nottingham Road Cemetery.

The cemeteries budget for the 2017/18 financial year is £380,657. These costs are met by Bereavement Services income from fees and charges.

This does not include the costs of maintaining cemetery grounds, which is included within the wider grounds maintenance budget for the city and undertaken by the council's Streetpride service.

c. Question from Lynne Evans to Councillor Afzal

I would like to ask why Derby City Council will not do anything about dustbins being left out permanently on some streets in Derby. I have complained about this many, many times over the years but without any satisfactory response or action. Apart from the fact that they are an eyesore, they are hazardous to pedestrians especially those with poor eyesight and are most unhygienic. There is a department within the Council - Derby Street Pride - who you would think would be concerned about anything that makes the streets look unclean and untidy but apparently they do not deal with this particular matter for some unexplained reason. Supposing we all left our dustbins out on the street - what then?

Other cities and towns don't seem to have this problem and have strict curfews on the amount of time the dustbin is left out on the pavement on collection days. People who do not observe this practice are promptly fined.

The unsightly and sometimes over full dustbins which line Newdigate Street in particular, set a very, very bad example to all those (both residents and non-residents) who drive along this stretch of the ring road which is used every minute of everyday.

People never used to leave their dustbins out on the streets before the wheelie bin takeover - so why is it alright for some to do so now?

I would so like to see Derby as a well loved and cared for city - a place to be really proud of but dustbins on streets versus pride simply do not go together!

I share your concerns about the image that leaving bins on streets creates which is why we have re-focused our efforts into the principles of engagement, education and enforcement set out in our Neighbourhood Charter. We need all of our residents to understand what they should and shouldn't do and take responsibility for their actions, to make us all proud of Derby. As I'm sure you will be aware, the council has had to find savings across its services which has affected staff in both waste management and in enforcement. However, with the recent successful introduction of Public Protection Officers, the problem is being tackled on a priority basis. The resources available are still limited, but we are making headway.

d. Question from George Morland to Councillor Shanker

Why has the council instructed its Taxi Licensing staff to forego certain legal background checks as drivers would fail in their applications, thus placing the public especially females at risk. Further along the same lines, why has the council relaxed the mechanical checks on the city's taxi fleet making them so dangerous that the police stated the majority should be scrapped as they are so dangerous as to be beyond repair. Both matters have been reported in the press and illustrate a failure by our council in its duty of care to the public.

No such instructions have been given. In fact, public safety measures have been increased following the changes we recently made in relation to mandatory safeguarding training, immigration checks and the Derby Points Scheme.

The council has not relaxed the mechanical checks on licensed vehicles. Following concerns raised by the police, the council took immediate action. A cross party working group is undertaking a review. The council continues to undertake inspection exercises with the Police and other local authorities.

e. Question from Rob Cooper to Councillor Shanker

In light of the recent Derby Telegraph article regarding elected members posted communications, what processes have been put in place to ensure that elected member don't overspend on the set budget for posted communications?

A log is kept of letters sent by councillors by post.

f. Question from Carole Fenton to Councillor Afzal

I don't believe the answer to my last question about Blue Badge parking showed enough care and consideration for disabled people. You didn't seem to understand the situation on my estate or offer any advice of help for one of the more vulnerable groups in our society (disabled). The Equality Act 2010 obliges local authorities to ensure adequate provision for disability groups. You will be aware that the council provided some disabled bays on various car parks on my estate, where the estate wasn't built for cars. The car parks are on the outside of the housing clusters and therefore make access to homes much more difficult for those less fortunate with a disability. Unfortunately, abled bodied residents park daily in these sparse spaces, quite often two cars at a time. I have reported this to the council on several occasions over a long period of time, and the response has been sporadic and poor, saying that these bays have no legal authority. As custodians of our council, do you understand that you are in breach of the Equality Act 2010, for such inaction?

The numbers of households with more than one vehicle is increasing and this is putting pressure on residential parking on many of our housing estates. Derby Homes manages the sites on housing land on behalf of Derby City Council.

Where ever possible Derby Homes will try to ensure adequate provision of disabled car parking taking account of tenants' needs. Over recent years Derby Homes has invested significant amounts in environmental improvements including the provision of additional parking where this has been both necessary and possible. There is no legal requirement for Derby Homes to necessarily provide parking for its tenants, but where parking is provided and where there is a need for disabled people to have access to the most conveniently located parking spaces then we will seek to mark the spaces accordingly.

Derby Homes accept that the situation in some areas remains problematic due to some misuse of the marked disabled parking bays and will engage with local residents to try to encourage respectful and co-operative behaviour. Derby Homes will contact the questioner directly and will work with them to try to improve the situation in that area.

g. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Afzal

It is being proposed to put in place Public Space Protection Orders for the city centre and surrounding areas of Derby to address issues relating drinking, begging and drug taking etc. This could force those who take part in such pastimes into parks such as Derby Arboretum which are more secluded. What will Derby City Council do on Derby Arboretum to make sure it does not become a hub for those pushed out by PSPOs?

The council have recently consulted on the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). PSPOs are intended to enable the police and the council to deal more effectively with anti-social behaviour that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on individuals behaviour. Implementing such an order, we believe will enable us to build on recent achievements in reducing begging and the use of psychotic substances in the city centre.

Directly in relation to the question, the proposed area of the PSPO includes Arboretum Park, for the exact same reasons outlined in the question. As with any new enforcement there is a risk of displacement, however our strategy is one of engagement, education and enforcement. The principle aim of enforcement is to stop the behaviour and encourage individuals with complex needs to enter into treatment services. This approach does not displace but aims to eradicate the problem by supporting vulnerable people into changing their behaviour.

h. Question from Thomas Bull to Councillor Russell

Why does the council think that removing 38 Special Needs places from Brackensdale school is fitting with the aim of improving Derby's specialist provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities?

A combined total of 28 enhanced resource places are proposed at Brackensdale Infant and Junior Schools. In addition to this, both schools will continue to have special needs pupils as part of mainstream inclusion, where their special needs can be met with additional support. This is similar to the way inclusion operates in all schools

The SEND review is also aiming to align enhanced resource places to help support children, parents and carers to ensure clear pathways for children based on SEND need when transferring from infant to junior schools. This will also ensure there are sufficient enhanced resource places.

The council will be looking very carefully at all consultation responses received by the closing date of 15 December 2017.

i. Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Councillor Afzal

The waste incineration contract includes plastics, previously recycled in the blue bin, now thrown into the black bin, and contracted for destruction at the Sinfen/Derbyshire incineration plant. The burning of fossil fuel plastics releases nitrogen dioxide, dioxin, and carbon dioxide, amongst other pollutants. The nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) will worsen air quality in an Air Quality Management Area and the City Council acknowledges this, as well as the fact that reduction, reuse and recycling are cheaper than incineration (see previous question answers).

4.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide that the incineration plant will emit over its lifespan, is not low-carbon or carbon neutral.

In view of COP23, Bonn, this week calling for more companies carbon risk disclosure being made public, when will the council tell the people of Derby what their so-called 'renewable energy' really means?

The council has been clear and consistent in providing information to residents regarding the operation of the Sinfen Waste Treatment Centre.

j. Question from Brendan Connelly to Councillor Hussain

How many adapted disabled 2/3 bedroom bungalows do Derby Homes and others provide to Derby City Council for wheelchair users?

Derby Homes and the council own 380 two and three bedroom bungalows. Of these, 206 have some form of adaptation. These can range from a level access shower, through specifically ramped access to the property, all the way through to 26 new wheelchair accessible bungalows.

Unfortunately, whilst we hold stock lists for Homefinder partners, we do not hold information on the breakdown of these properties by adaptation.

k. Question from Rob Cooper to Councillor Rawson

Since the unfortunate closure of the Assembly Rooms has the council carried out an impact assessment of the local economy from the on-going closure of the Assembly Rooms?

No. We have not undertaken any specific research on the impact. We know from consultation and feedback on the Masterplan that a new performance venue is a priority and we have assessed the economic impact of the main options currently under consideration.

I. Question from Carole Fenton to Councillor Hussain

My estate is suffering from known (by the police and the council) drug dealing and antisocial behaviour by a tenant of yours. You have been aware of this for many, many months which means that you are culpable of putting decent tenants and residents at risk. How long does this activity have to go before you take the necessary action? Does somebody need to get injured?

Derby Homes is the organisation which undertakes housing management and maintenance services on behalf of the council. Derby Homes has a specialist Anti-Social Behaviour Team who work in partnership with the council and Derbyshire Constabulary. All organisations take allegations of criminal activity, including drug dealing, very seriously. Where this is found to be happening on our estates we will work closely with the police to take appropriate action.

Our processes are not time-led, they are evidence led. Derby Homes last had contact from the questioner in the summer of 2015, at that time investigations were undertaken and neighbouring residents were contacted, but no evidence brought forward of any anti-social behaviour or criminal activity. Derby Homes will contact the questioner to further discuss any current concerns.

m. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Afzal

Since Derby City Council started charging for brown bin garden waste collections it has always sent the waste to the Vital Earth in-vessel composting facility where the council previously sent garden and food waste. As this is the case, why does the council not allow those who pay the fee to also place food waste into their brown bin which would help to boost the council's recycling rate and stop food waste from going to landfill or incineration?

During 2017, the council has collected 4386.24 tonnes of high quality material through our Garden Recycling Scheme. Inclusion of food waste would lower the quality and the value the Council can recoup.

We actively encourage residents to reduce food waste through activities like home composting and the Love Food, Hate Waste Campaign.

Councillor Questions

n. Question from Councillor Graves to Councillor Banwait

I read with interest the lack of expedient action in relation to the poor conduct of Cllr Nawaz. The Standards Committee spent many months investigating his inappropriate behaviour and the committee presented its findings and recommendation in July 2017, that to request the Group Leader, Ranjit Banwait to remove Cllr Nawaz from all council committees. This would have the effect of removing his Special Responsibility Allowance for being the Personnel Committee Chairman

Local Press reports seem to miss this issue when Cllr Nawaz removed himself from the Planning Committee but not the Personnel committee.

Honourable elected members normally withdraw themselves from office when they realise their mistakes, which has not happened in this instance, furthermore the local Derby Labour party will not take the appropriate action required and Cllr Nawaz continues to be paid extra allowances because of this inaction.

Can you inform the chamber and the general public what action you intend to take regarding this serious matter?

After providing a verbal response at the meeting, Councillor Banwait supplied that response in writing (below) and requested that it be placed on the record.

This question is littered with inaccuracies. As you are a member of the Standards Committee Councillor Graves you must know about these inaccuracies. I find it disgraceful that you would so blatantly mislead the public in the wording of your question to politicise this issue.

You falsely say that the Standards Committee spent many months investigating this issue. This is totally untrue. There was no complaint about Councillor Nawaz, there was no investigation, there was no hearing before the committee, there was no opportunity for Councillor Nawaz to offer mitigation. There was a single officer report recommending that the issue was noted, a report which covered one and a half sides of A4. The minutes show that the meeting when the report was considered along with two other major business items lasted just over an hour.

You falsely say that the committee asked me to remove Councillor Nawaz from all committees. Again this is untrue. The minutes show that the recommendation referred to "any or all committees". A judgment was necessary. The Labour

Group took advice from the council's legal team. That advice explicitly states that the most appropriate committee for Councillor Nawaz to step down from would be the Planning Control Committee, as this is a regulatory matter just as licensing is a regulatory matter.

You falsely say that the local press have missed the issue. Again this is untrue. The press have covered this matter extensively. It is you Councillor Graves who is wilfully trying to rewrite history to suggest that the press have missed something which wasn't there.

You falsely suggest that elected members normally withdraw themselves from office when they realise their mistakes. This is very misleading. What sanctions did you impose on yourself Councillor Graves after suggesting Councillor Eldret should not have been given a Council Cabinet position as a pregnant woman? You apologise for that. You accepted you made a mistake. Did you withdraw from public office or offer up part of your basic allowance?

Councillor Nawaz has accepted from the outset that he made an error. The resolution is not only compliant with the Standards Committee resolution but with legal advice which was sought first. It has been dealt with, a sanction has been acted upon, and we move on like adults.

This question masquerades as seeking high moral standards but is just a political game to you.

As a long service member of this council, as a group leader, as a member of the Standards Committee and as a councillor whose own conduct has frequently brought you into the limelight for all the wrong reasons, you should know better.

I will be providing officers with a copy of this response and ask that it is added to the public record.

o. Question from Councillor Skelton to Councillor Russell

How many conversions from Statements of SEN to EHCPs have not yet been started?

None - all have been started. On 13 November 2017 the LA reported to DfE that there are 847 to convert by 31 March 2018.

How much notice is being given to parents of children with SEN of the initial meeting that starts the process of conversion?

Pre -16 the school initiates the Transfer Review Meeting. The local authority wrote to all schools, in the beginning of Autumn Term 2017 to remind the schools that the Transfer Review Meetings will need to be held before the end of October 2017 to meet the deadline of 31 March 2018.

As part of the conversion process, are a full range of assessments being undertaken in all cases to accurately determine the current needs of the children?

A full assessment is carried out when the child or young person's needs have changed significantly.

p. Question from Councillor Barker to Councillor Shanker

Derby City Council has experienced serious governance issues in recent years and the Labour administration has pledged to “Reassure local people and our external auditors that we have sound governance arrangements in place.”

As the Cabinet Member for Governance and the Chair of the Standards Committee, do you believe the resignation of your colleague, Councillor Nawaz from his membership of the Planning Committee satisfies the cross party recommendations of the Standards Committee?

Yes.

q. Question from Councillor Grimadell to Councillor Rawson

With public realm improvement works on St Peters Street continuing, what additional measures are planned for other areas of the city centre in need improvement and what representations has he received, in respect of public safety measures in the city centre, from the relevant ward members or 'Neighbourhood Boards'?

The works on St Peter's Street are the latest in a programme of improvements to public realm in the city centre. The council has already completed improvements to the Morledge, Corporation Street, St Peter's Cross and The Spot. Funding from D2N2's Local Growth Fund is enabling delivery of further improvements to Albion Street and Osnabruck Square which will follow in 2018/19. One of the key objectives of the City Centre Masterplan is to create a connected city, and we will continue to seek funding to continue public realm improvements, in addition to ensuring that new developments have improved public realm integrated into their design as much as possible (for example Becketwell).

On the question of public safety, the council, working with a wide range of partners including Derbyshire Police already provide a very safe city centre. This has been recognised by the renewal of Derby's Purple Flag status. Furthermore, Derby was awarded the ATCM National Evening & Night time Economy Award for safe and vibrant city centre. In addition, the anticipated proactive introduction of a Public Space Protection Order in the city will directly address the negative behaviours of a small number of individuals who tarnish our otherwise welcoming and safe city.

r. Question from Councillor Willoughby to Councillor Russell

Does the cabinet member welcome the fact that Derby has been announced as one of the six 'Opportunity Areas' by the Department for Education to increase levels of social mobility in education resulting in £6 million of funding being made available to Derby over three years along with an additional grant in excess of £200,000 for a number of schools to work on improving reading skills?

The Opportunity Areas programme presents Derby with an opportunity to build on the progress this council has made over the past few years in improving educational outcomes at all key stages.

s. Question from Councillor Poulter to Councillor Shanker

Can the cabinet member provide full details of the totals for all government grants received by this council in respect of both capital and revenue grant receipts for the past three financial years - 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17?

Yes, these are in the public domain and are available for all to view on our website.

t. Question from Councillors Harwood (i) and Graves (ii) to Councillor Rawson

(i) The council is currently consulting on options for a new entertainment and performance venue at the site of the Assembly Rooms.

One of the options being put forward is the refurbishment of the current building with the stated cost being a minimum of £10 million up to £46 million.

Can the cabinet member explain how the council arrived at the range of £10 million to £46 million in relation to the refurbishment option and offer examples of what would be delivered at the minimum and maximum being quoted?

(ii) Recent evidence has shown that the Assembly Rooms damage was not as extensive as portrayed by the council and that it could have come back into operational use very quickly after the fire. The footage of the fire certainly appeared to show complete devastation, yet new photos show most of the building intact.

The Labour Group have delayed and dilly-dallied over this for four years. You have even allocated half a million pounds on looking at options with a questionable end game plan. Questionable because you haven't informed the council who might take on this huge undertaking.

Can you provide the council chamber with the reasons why you have delayed for so many years? Can you tell us if this building is being held back for Chinese investment, or any other interested party?

Councillor Graves' assertion that the Assembly Rooms could come back into use very quickly after the fire is simply wrong.

Following the fire at the Assembly Rooms, an in-house-led survey estimated the likely cost of refurbishment to be £7.4m. The basic improvements needed just to re-open the existing building include major changes to the mechanical and electrical systems and improvement to fire barriers. Some parts of the building require upgrading to ensure they are fit for purpose including the foyer, toilets and kitchen. To reopen the building without addressing these needs would only provide a short term solution. If improvements to the foyer were also made, the refurbishment cost would increase to £13m. Whilst operational, the venue

required an on-going council revenue subsidy and maintenance costs totalling £750k per year.

In addition to the in-house survey work, we commissioned a consultancy team to look at a range of refurbishment options as part of the Performance Venue feasibility studies carried out in 2016.

Three options were designed and costed, with costs ranging from £25m (improvements to entrance, lobby and access) to £46m (including a fly tower and three tiered seating)

Over a 20 year lifespan, the old Assembly Rooms would require a revenue subsidy of at least £15m. In contrast, a new performance venue, as envisaged under the City Centre Masterplan, would not require a subsidy but is expected to generate an annual surplus. It was therefore concluded that the refurbishment of the building is uneconomical, financially unsustainable and unattractive to entertainment operators as a concert venue.

During 2016 and 2017, the council commissioned and received feasibility studies which showed that there was a demand for a new venue which would enhance what was currently being offered in Derby and complement what was being offered in other parts of the region. They also showed that a new business model could be used to ensure that a new venue could generate a surplus rather than require a subsidy. The studies also explored options for what type of venue would fit on the site and would meet the council's criteria and concluded that there was no completely privately funded solution - all feasible options required significant initial capital funding from the public sector and we have been working hard towards creating a viable business case for the project.

Cabinet received a report in October summarising the extensive work to date and a consultation exercise is now underway until 15 December, to explain more about the options considered and seek views from businesses, cultural partners and the general public. We will consider the results of this consultation in January, before taking a decision on the next phase of work.

The project is being progressed as quickly as possible; we are not holding the building back for any third party.

u. Question from Councillor Potter to Councillor Rawson

Can the cabinet member tell me the number of Planning Enforcement referrals received by the council's Planning department in the past twelve months?

To date, in 2017, we have received 159 enforcement complaints to investigate. This is in comparison to 204 in 2016 and 149 in 2015.

v. Question from Councillor Smale to Councillor Raju

What practical support is being given to the library and cleaning staff whose jobs are uncertain as a consequence of the libraries review?

What plans and options are being pursued for the potential redeployment or otherwise for the forty-one library staff and seven cleaning staff whose jobs are at risk as a result of the Libraries review?

Practical support is being provided to relevant staff and examples include:

- The opportunity to attend staff and manager briefing sessions.
- The availability of a Frequently Asked Staff Questions document and weekly updated new bulletins.
- The opportunity to attend health and well-being bite size training in areas such as coping with change, stress management and resilience.
- The offer of Chaplaincy and Counselling services.
- The opportunity to fill in group and individual stress risk assessments and the opportunity to review the group risk assessments in team meetings.

Redeployment support will be available to relevant staff in line with council policies for employees who have worked with the council continuously for one year or more. Employees can start to access redeployment support as soon as they have been declared at risk of redundancy in writing. Once the date at which this will happen is known, it will be communicated to staff.

In addition, to minimise the risk of compulsory redundancies, we are managing vacancies and will seek expressions of interest for voluntary redundancy and voluntary early retirement from qualifying staff.

w. Question from Councillor M Holmes to Councillor Rawson

What are the weekly footfall figures recorded for St Peters Street and East Street so far in 2016/17?

During the financial year 2016/17 the total footfall recorded on St Peters Street was 6,373,000. On East Street / Albion Street the figure was 6,431,000. These figures are taken from footfall cameras in the city centre and the data is supplied to us by PfBB (Partnerships for Better Business). The detailed table behind these headline figures, which shows weekly footfall on St Peters Street, East Street/Albion Street and the city centre as a whole, will be passed on to Councillor Holmes.

x. Question from Councillor Care to Councillor Banwait

What research has the council, or partner organisations locally or regionally, done or commissioned on the likely impacts of Brexit on Derby's families and businesses, and the council itself?

I'm not aware of any specific research carried out by our partner bodies on the impact of Brexit. Indeed it is difficult to do so given that 'Brexit' is undefined (eg: will we remain the single market?). The Government have stated that they have commissioned sector based impact assessments and that they may release them but haven't yet committed to a timescale for doing so.

Note we are in the process of completing a draft Economic Assessment for Derby and a draft revised Economic strategy. I will make these available for consultation by early next year at the latest.

y. Question from Councillor Graves to Councillor Raju

It has now been 8 months since the Council forced Mad Hatters from Alvaston Park. The café has had the best months (Spring, Summer, Autumn) over this time. Can you provide screenshot of how well, in profit and loss terms, the new Alvaston Park Café is doing to assure members of the council that this was a sound financial decision? Can you also assure members of the public that the café will be open over the winter period (in line with the previous tenants opening hours)?

As you are aware the council worked hard to keep any closure of the café to as minimum and reopened the café ten days after receiving possession back from the previous operator.

To improve the customer experience the council has invested in the café including redecoration, a new counter, furniture and catering equipment. Customer feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and the café has traded strongly during the year to date, despite poor weather during the summer school holidays. As previously reported bringing the catering outlets together under one delivery arrangement was to enable the future longer term options to be maximised and to allow the consideration of other opportunities within the park, as well as enabling the benefits of economies of scale. It is anticipated that income targets for catering will be achieved this financial year.

I can confirm that the café will remain open over the winter period in line with the previous operating hours.

z. Question from Councillor Willoughby to Councillor Banwait

The Council is in the process of looking to appoint an additional strategic director and is about to bring forward another full review of the senior strategic officer management team.

Will the Leader of the Council:

- Acknowledge that this has become necessary as a direct result of the officer management team having been cut too far and too fast by him in the past, to an unsustainable level, which is not sufficient to provide effective management of the Council?**
- Detail what the financial cost of these measures will be and from where the funding will be found in the budget?**

You are correct that the council has decided to review the current capacity at a senior management level, however this is not for the reasons you have specified.

The council has consistently provided effective management despite capacity being reduced. You are correct that this has required people to take increasing portfolios and responsibility which they have done with great success.

The decision to reduce senior management was based on an understanding of the roles and responsibilities/tasks and processes the council needed to be engaged in. Since that time the actual scope of work has increased, for example, the Devolution work, the LEP refresh and the new swimming pool.

It is therefore these changes that are driving the need for a review and increased capacity. In total, including the new Strategic Director role, it is expected that the review will cost in the region of £600k.

za. Question from Councillor Poulter to Councillor Banwait

Will the Leader of the Council please state when the long awaited Report of the Local Government Associations' independent Peer Review into Derby City Council will be made public as promised?

The council has every intention of publishing this report, which summarises the findings from a voluntary peer review that we commissioned from the Local Government Association. The report remains in draft currently. As soon as the report is finalised, we will share the findings with Executive Scrutiny through a Performance Surgery and subsequently publish the report on the council's website. This is likely to be before Christmas.

This administration is committed to open and transparent reporting of all inspections and assessments. We are developing a Corporate Improvement Plan which will address any recommendations.

zb. Question from Councillor Smale to Councillor Raju

What contingency plans are being considered by the administration if one of Derby's libraries that is no longer part of the council statutory offer fails to move to a CML model?

We have received at least one Registration of Interest to run every potential CML and we will provide support to organisations and groups that wish to submit full applications by the 4 December deadline. Therefore, the scenario described in the question isn't currently likely to happen. In the unlikely event that it does occur, we will respond according to the circumstances prevailing at the time, in line with the council's pledge to protect libraries from closure.

zc. Question from Councillor Care to Councillor Russell

I have been advised by officers that there are 174 band 3 children in our special schools as per the original 17/18 budget. Please could this be broken down by school?

PRE 16 PUPILS Band 3 (excluding those placed by other local authorities)	Yr1-2	Yr3-6	Yr7+	TOTAL Derby Pupils
Ivy House				0
St Andrews			3	3
St Clares			49	49
St Giles		2		2
St Martins			29	29
Kingsmead				0
KS1/2 PRU	18	18		36
KS3/4 PRU			60	60
TOTAL	18	20	141	179

zd. Question from Councillor Graves to Councillor Afzal

Church Street Alvaston is now in its 3rd year, or 30 months, of utter chaos with one lane permanently closed on a temporary basis, note the oxymoron!

Local councillors and residents were made aware of the eventual legal process and the subsequent planning application. However, despite the planning permission being granted no work has yet commenced again despite the court order making it very clear the timescales.

For your ease I will list these:

Court case – 20th April 2017

Court ruling - Under the terms of the order, the works must be commenced within 24 weeks of the date of the order and completed within 36 weeks of the date of the order.

Twenty-four weeks is 5th October 2017 and 36 weeks is 28th December 2017. Seven weeks have passed since work should have commenced and there are five weeks left before the work should be finished.

This is another case of lack of political will in the cabinet to solve a problem that was created by the council for not taking action sooner. Can you give assurances of when this work will be complete?

The work covered by the court order has started and is progressing well. The owner has until 28 December 2017 to comply with the order and we will continue to monitor the progress of the works. As soon as the work required by the court order has been completed, the scaffolding protection can be removed from Church Street, which will in turn allow the carriageway to be re-opened.

