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# **Council Meeting**

3 September 2019

**Booklet 1**

Answers to Written Questions

1.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Williams**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor K Maton, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Would the Cabinet Member provide total cumulative figures per ward for how much grant funding and capital funding for nurseries has been spent between July 2010 & July 2019?”

**Answer:**

This information is being collated and will be provided to Cllr Williams as soon as it is available.

**Question:**

Would he also confirm that he is confident enough in our policies & processes that the Council would not show special favours or discrimination against any individual nursery?”

**Answer:**

We have a robust procedure in place to ensure that no one person makes the decision to give funds or develop a nursery without this being presented to Head of Service and then Director level.

There is a working group for capital projects and this group would look and review all projects against need and then approve further developments of projects prior to formal approvals.

2.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Williams**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor K Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“With reference to our *Coventry on the Move* campaign, could the Cabinet Member tell me which wards have benefited from the open air gym equipment and how much has presently been spent on purchasing and installing this equipment?”

**Answer:**

Cov on the Move in Parks is a programme aimed at improving physical activity within our green spaces. The installation of outdoor Gyms in four parks coincides with our Year of Wellbeing and European City of Sport.

The total spend on installation and purchase of outdoor gym equipment is £70,430.62.

The parks which received outdoor gym equipment are Edgwick Park, Stoke Heath / Morris Common, Quinton Park and Caludon Castle Park. The Installation began in July and was completed in August.

All localities are worse or similar to England average for childhood excess weight/obesity (Yr 6) and physical activity levels (almost a third of the community around the parks are inactive). Coventry is **worse** than the England average in % of adults classified as overweight or obese (65%), % of physically inactive adults (30%) and prevalence of overweight including obesity in Year 6 (38%).

To reduce health inequalities within our population, more accessible options for physical activity need to be developed, such as activities in local parks. With a long-term limiting illness or disability inactivity rate of 50%, Coventry compares poorly to England at 43% and most Nearest Neighbours (Sport England Active lives survey June 18)

Being physically active, particularly within green spaces is beneficial to both physical and mental health. By establishing outdoor gyms, particularly in areas of need, whether that need is because of inequality in health due to long term illness or disability or due to deprivation; provides communities with an opportunity to improve their health at no cost and within their local community.

The Cov on the move Programme, including the Outdoor Gyms has been implement despite £3.65million reduction (17%) to public health grant within the Council since 2015. This financial reduction is in addition to significant reduction to council budgets. Since 2010 the ongoing Austerity and Local Health related cuts are clearly having a massive impact on Local Health Outcomes. This is not just Physical but also Mental.

3.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Williams**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetheron, Cabinet Member for City Services**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Roads across Coventry have to be closed to support various events throughout the year, such as the Coventry Half Marathon, Northbrook Run, and the new ‘Velo’ event; yet it always seems to be the same roads that are closed,

especially in Coundon, Allesley and the rural areas. Residents would like to know if the Cabinet Member would consider using different routes for certain events so that it isn't always the same residents who have to suffer consistent inconvenience."

**Answer:**

The Cabinet Member is aware of the need to consider the impact on residents and businesses of the road closure plans for events. Event organisers propose the routes and all proposed road closures are considered in-depth and consulted on with our partners and internal colleagues. Road closures have to be approved by the Highways service. Whilst routes are determined by the organisers, the Council influences the routes and aims to ensure stewarding and publicity inform and assist residents during periods when roads are closed. These events are predominantly held on Sundays, to mitigate impact on residents as far as possible. While events make a significant contribution to the city, the Cabinet Member is mindful of the need for balance, and alternative routes are being considered for some events, including Velo in 2020.

4.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Male**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor A Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

"At the Council meeting held on Tues 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Cllr Abdul Khan indicated that he would be Chairing a Cabinet sub-committee meeting to discuss CIL. Can the Cabinet Member update Council of the outcomes of this meeting and confirm whether or not opportunities to claim CIL have been missed by the Council?"

**Answer:**

We had a meeting of the CIL Working Group on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019.

We are considering proposals which will make best use of S106 moneys. At present, there are no outcomes. We are scheduled to have a further meeting in the next couple of months, after which the Sub Committee may be able to make some recommendations.

I am not aware of opportunities to claim CIL have been missed by the Council since CIL has never been applicable to developments in Coventry.

5.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Male**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor T Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Following the revelation that £500,000 of roof tax revenue was unclaimed by Coventry City Council at Keepmoat Homes’ developments in Henley Green and Wood End, can the Cabinet Member reassure Council that all appropriate monies on new developments across the city are being claimed efficiently and appropriately?”

**Answer:**

The S106 agreement that supported the original planning consent was extremely complex - and reflective of the extent and nature of the development proposals across the Wood End, Henley Green and Manor Farm area. It has not therefore been helped by the changes in circumstances experienced within the regeneration programme – including a large proportion of the development changing from replacement dwellings to refurbished dwellings.

Notwithstanding, Section 106 monies need to be claimed at appropriate times throughout the delivery of new developments across the city. As a result officers have continued to work with Keepmoat Homes, as the primary developer, and the outstanding S106 monies on the Keepmoat scheme have now been invoiced.

6.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Male**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor A Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Can the appropriate Cabinet Member confirm how much money has been spent providing park facilities on the Ponderosa, Tile Hill, over the past decade? Can the Cabinet Member also confirm why close to £10,000 of S106 monies, allocated for the Ponderosa, remains unspent?”

**Answer:**

The City Council does not keep individual expenditure records for parks other than War Memorial, Coombe, and sites where specific grant conditions require records to be kept. Recent major expenditure on the Ponderosa have included works to both the sports pitches and traveller defences. There is currently £7,251 of S106 money allocated to the Ponderosa, on its own this is not sufficient to provide additional facilities on the site. However, officers will continue to explore opportunities to use this money to lever in finding from other sources to bring forward further improvements to the Ponderosa.

7.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Williams**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor A Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Does the Deputy Leader think that crime in the rural areas should be treated equally as important as crime in the City Centre?”

**Answer:**

Yes