



Coventry City Council

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# **Council Meeting**

31 October 2006

**Booklet 1**

Questions

1.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Bigham**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Blundell**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

Did Councillor Blundell read the letter in the Coventry Telegraph of October 3<sup>rd</sup> which referred to the cost of school uniforms?

Would he agree with me that the purchasing of a uniform is a greater drain on the resources of those with low incomes and that Coventry City Council should re-instate School Clothing Grants?

2.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor O'Neill**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

UNISON believe that many larger authorities have yet to implement a single status package and that many are waiting to see what happens in Coventry. Many understand that Coventry have not "successfully implemented" single status because of the unions rejection and continued industrial action by members.

Could you advise at what stage different metropolitan authorities are at at implementing single status and, have any imposed the deal, have any used 90 day notices and how many local authority workforces are undergoing union ballots regarding single status proposals

3.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor O'Neill**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

Why have the Council had to spend £100,000 on employing Eversheds to defend equal pay claims when this could have been used towards paying proper back pay compensation within the single status package in the first place? How much more will you have to spend? (we have heard it could be well in excess of 250k)

4.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Windsor**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor O'Neill**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

Why is it that the Pavement Sweeper drivers whose pay before single status was circa £18k are now under single status down to 14 – 16 k. Originally they weren't losers but someone in the council decided to move them out of the job family with the Mech Drivers (who are not losers on around 18k? and now they are losers)

5.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Windsor**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor O'Neill**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

Why is it that the bin men crews are now employed on a task and finish basis and the Health and Safety issues with this are not being monitored? Crews will undoubtedly cut corners and try and finish early such as cross busy roads with bins and leave the depot early - something which we believe is in breach of the operators license.

Crews have been observed by trade unionists crossing busy roads pulling behind them two bins. This is a very dangerous practice and one that is going on so that the roads can be cleared in half the time. The authority must tackle this practice before there is an accident.

6.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Windsor**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Foster**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

Will the cabinet member assist with urgent action over ongoing safety concerns in Harnall Lane East in Hillfields. Despite a petition of 500 names submitted in 2004 regarding changing the siting of a pedestrian crossing and an ongoing history of Road Traffic Accidents at the junction with the Channies any alteration to the crossing and implementation of a local safety scheme appears to be put on hold regarding "other works". After three reports of Road Traffic Accidents since May 2006 of which two have involved children the implementation of the measures outlined must surely be an urgent priority.

7.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Windsor**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Blundell**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

Is the cabinet member aware of the proposed cuts in language staff at Hillfields Early Years Centre, a centre rightfully commended for it's excellent work, due to reductions in staff employed by the Primary Care Trust? Would the Cabinet member investigate a bid for interim funding as part of the councils PPR process to ensure that this reduction in staff does not happen whilst lobbying the PCT to provide the funding for these staff again at a later date?

8.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Windsor**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Clifford**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

Could the Chair of health Scrutiny advise of the progress of the detailed review of the Primary Care Trusts proposals for changes to services in Coventry and Warwickshire as so far the only meetings involving members have been a health finance seminar and (for which the Chair of Health Scrutiny is to be commended) an invite to non health Scrutiny members to attend a health scrutiny meeting to discuss more job cuts by the Primary Care Trust.

9.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Arrowsmith**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

Is the proposed disposal of Local Authority assets under the auspices of Portfolio Property Management linked to any shortfalls in funding regarding measures to rebuild schools in the city?