



Coventry City Council

Council Meeting

19th October 2010

Booklet 3a

Answers to Written Questions

1.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Mutton</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>What progress he has made regarding making available to Members the agendas and minutes of outside and partnership bodies?</p> <p>Answer: Following agreement at the Council meeting on 14th September, contact was made with officers at the Police, Fire & Rescue and Integrated Transport Authorities to establish dates of their future meetings. With this information, a timetable was drawn up from their September meetings onwards. Members will therefore be receiving copies of minutes as they become publicly available, the first (which will be from the Integrated Transport Authority meeting 6/9/10) will be circulated to members on or around the 18th October 2010.</p>	

2.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Harvard</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>What has been the cost so far of Coventry's contribution to Project Transform?</p> <p>Answer: The cost of the procurement exercise and the development of the outline planning application up to 31 March 2010 is £1.7m of which the Council's share is £0.64m. Forecast costs for the 2010/11 financial year are circa £0.6m of which the Council's share is circa £0.26m. The costs incurred so far are significantly outweighed by the £4.5m annual saving from the decision not to continue with the project.</p> <p>Council officers have worked as quickly as possible to compile the technical and financial evidence to support the decision to withdraw and have minimised procurement costs over the summer whilst the final stages of this work were completed.</p>	

3.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Kelly</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>What advice has been given to Blue Coat School and its governors regarding their application for Academy status; and if she will list what land and buildings there are currently in Council ownership, which are owned by the Church, and what is the value of each?</p>	

Answer:

We prepared a paper for governors, at the request of the school, in late June on the changes in the responsibilities taken on by a school which becomes an Academy. This paper was circulated to governors after their governing body meeting in September.

A short initial paper was prepared for the headteacher and Chair of Governors in late June, again at their request on the impact of becoming an Academy.

The school has also been sent a copy of the Cabinet Paper entitled Coventry City Council: Principles for Working with Academies and Free Schools. This was approved by Cabinet Member Education on first October and considered by Scrutiny Board 2 on 14th October.

We have not provided any advice to the school on land and buildings issues. As a Diocesan school the buildings and the land on which they sit are owned by the Diocese. The remainder of the land within the school boundary is owned by the Council as are the adjacent Charterhouse playing fields, which are used by the school and the local community, and are not within the boundary of the school. If the school does proceed with an application for Academy Status we would expect to take a similar approach to that adopted for the Sidney Stringer Academy. The leasehold of any land owned by the City Council would be transferred to the Academy Trust (The Academies Act does not allow for the Secretary of State to make a direction to transfer such land to the Academy Trust). The leasehold would include any necessary covenants e.g. land must be used for educational purposes. In effect the City Council would remain the 'landlord' and the Academy Trust the 'tenant'.

The standard term for any lease is likely to be 125 years at a peppercorn rent.

We are aware of local residents concerns that the current arrangements for sharing of Charterhouse Playing Fields between the school and the community should continue and we will ensure these concerns are properly addressed as part of any land transfer negotiations.

We do not have a current figure for the value of the land as this will entirely depend on what the land could be used for. The school buildings are insured for £16m for re-building purposes.

4.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Skipper

TEXT OF QUESTION:

What are the latest numbers in each section of the Homefinder waiting list?

Answer:

At the beginning of each month all Cabinet Members receive an up to date report of numbers on Homefinder.

The numbers at the beginning of October are as follows:

Band 1a	36
Band 1b	60
Band 2a	960
Band 2b	296
Band 2c	479
Band 3a	14700
Band 3b	801
Total	17332