



Coventry City Council

Council Meeting

13th September, 2011

Booklet 2

Answers to Written Questions

1.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Duggins, Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources)

TEXT OF QUESTION:

What discussions are currently taking place to vary the terms and conditions of Council employees as part of future cost savings?

Answer:

There are no discussions currently taking place to vary the terms and conditions of Council employees as part of future cost savings.

2.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Duggins, Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources)

TEXT OF QUESTION:

If he will review his decision not to use the £600,000 in the 2011/12 budget (agreed by Council on February 15th, 2011 to be set aside for payment to those Council employees earning less than £21,000 of a flat rate payment of £250 in the pay year 2011/12), to pay this Council's eligible employees?

Answer:

As I have already explained to Councillor Nellist, the position regarding the local government pay award was not resolved when Council agreed the 2011/12 budget in February. Given the possibility that a small award targeted at lower paid groups may have been made, we took the prudent decision to provide for this.

The ruling Labour Group has always favoured a small overall award weighted towards the lowest paid and we lobbied for this in meetings with the National Employers in December 2010. We have also always been clear that we would honour any award made through national Pay bargaining but that we would not move away from national pay scales or make any payment in addition to them.

As no pay award has been offered to any groups of employees in 2011/12, I will not review my decision to make additional payments using the £600,000 contingency. As I have previously made clear, we will instead use this funding to address the pressures arising from the significant cuts in funding that we are experiencing in order to avoid future cuts in jobs and services as far as possible.

3.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Kelly, Cabinet Member (Education)

TEXT OF QUESTION:

How many reception age children, starting school for the first time, are attending schools outside their catchment area even though their families had applied for a place at a local school before the correct application date?

Answer:

We received 3966 applications for reception age children to start school for the first time in September 2011 by the official closing date. 89.7% received their first choice school.

We have 61 community and voluntary controlled primary and infant schools with catchment areas, and 20 voluntary aided primary schools which refer to parish or priority areas in their admissions policies.

There were 9 children who applied on time, live in the catchment area of Longford Park School and who were unable to gain a place at the school. There were 2 children who applied on time, live within the parish of Corpus Christi but were unable to gain a place at Corpus Christi School. All other applicants who applied for their catchment or parish school obtained a place.

4.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Skipper, Cabinet Member
(Neighbourhood Action, Housing, Leisure and Culture)**

TEXT OF QUESTION:

What is the current level of the Homefinder waiting list, and how has it changed in the last 6 and 12 months?

Answer:

The current numbers of active registrations on Coventry Homefinder, taken on 05/09/2011 are:

Band 1 - 122

Band 2 - 2196

Band 3 - 20419

Total = **22,737**

The table below indicates the active registrations from the beginning of September 2010 through to the end of August 2011.

Month	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Total
September 2010	98	1634	15031	16763
October 2010	96	1735	15501	17332
November 2010	101	1789	15962	17852
December 2010	98	1811	16380	18289
January 2011	102	1884	16615	18601
February 2011	110	1952	17333	19395
March 2011	114	2027	17788	19929
April 2011	101	2118	18359	20578
May 2011	76	2173	18695	20944
June 2011	79	2141	19201	21421
July 2011	85	2179	19583	21847
August 2011	89	2188	20028	22305