



Coventry City Council

Council Meeting

17th January 2012

Booklet 2

Answers to Written Questions

1.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Mutton, Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance)</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>How many members of staff had their pay frozen as part of the implementation of Single Status; how many are still employed by the Council and, of those, how many are still on frozen pay rates?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>At the imposition of single status in June 2005, 1637 employees were provided with pay protection.</p> <p>When pay protection ended in May 2010, 130 of those employees were still in receipt of pay protection.</p> <p>There are no employees that are now in receipt of single status pay protection.</p>	

2.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Nellist</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Mrs Bigham, Cabinet Member (City Development)</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>What are the procedures for deciding on the sale of Council owned property and, in particular, how and when was it decided to sell the property formerly used as the 'Toy Museum' (Whitefriars Gate) in Much Park Street?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The Council has made no decision to sell 35-37 Much Park Street (Whitefriars Gatehouse)</p> <p>The Council is marketing the availability of the Gatehouse and inviting expressions of interest as part of a two stage process from potential occupiers interested in an occupational lease or a long lease of the gatehouse. I understand that you are already in receipt of a copy of the details.</p>	

Because of the need to incur expenditure on the property, its limited functionality and its listed nature, it is important to seek a use for the building that will give it a sustainable future, and for these reasons adjoining land may be made available to support the use and sympathetic development of the building. It is important to invite as wide a field of applications for the use of this building as possible and a two stage process has been adopted so that interested prospective parties and their proposals can be screened and a decision made on which proposal, if any to proceed with. If terms for a short or long term lease are subsequently agreed, these would be reported formally for approval, but we are not at that stage yet.

Whitefriars Gatehouse forms part of the Councils Commercial Property portfolio and became vacant in 2008 on the death of the former occupier who used the premises as his principle residence and as a toy museum.

Since then the Gatehouse has been in the immediate area of the Severn Trent Office Building development and subject to an arson attack.

The Gatehouse was previously marketed in 2010 whilst the Severn Trent Building was being constructed but resulted in limited interest in the building that could be taken forward to a detailed proposal involving the Gatehouse alone.

The current marketing exercise which commenced in October 2011 has generated some interest but as yet no definite proposals. I am prepared to consider any use that may give the Gatehouse a sustainable future as this is an important part of the city's heritage and occupation and use is the best guarantee for preserving the building for the future.

If the Council was to consider the outright disposal of the Gatehouse or other Council owned property it would normally be preceded by a report seeking authority to dispose and be followed by a subsequent report approving the terms of disposal, unless other circumstances prevailed such as a direct approach from an interested party when a report may go directly on terms proposed or a minor land sale when the transaction would be approved through the exercise of delegated powers.