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13. **Question Time** (Pages 3 - 6) – Answers to Written Questions



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Council Meeting

9 July 2024

Booklet 1

Answers to Written Questions

1.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Ridley</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>“I was recently contacted by residents who were concerned about the sight of overflowing bins at the London Road Mass Grave/War Memorial. Other residents have reported similar problems at other local cemeteries. Could the Cabinet Member for City Services tell us what arrangements have been made to ensure this situation does not occur again?”</p> <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>“Earlier this year we switched contractor for waste collection which resulted in some disruption to collections. We have been in regular contact with the new provider to discuss the issues and we have been assured that there will be no further delays to collections”.</p>	

2.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Ridley</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>“Residents have also raised concerns about the accuracy of a sign near the mass grave which states: ‘Resting in these gardens are those who lost their lives during the Air Raid in 1940’. Would the Cabinet Member look at altering this sign to reflect the burials of victims from other raids during the war?”</p> <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>“We are in the process of changing the sign to reflect the fact that people laid to rest in the mass grave died over the course of German bombing raids during the second world war.</p> <p>A new sign will be in place in time for the Remembrance Service in November 2024”.</p>	

3.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Ridley</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J McNicholas</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>“As a Director of Birmingham International Airport Holdings Limited Could Cllr McNicholas tell us what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of Birmingham Airport about the recent chaotic scenes?”</p> <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I have communicated with the Chief Executive of Birmingham Airport, and though the question was not specific about events, I can assure my colleague of the following.</p> <p>The Department of Transport’s deadline for introducing new security screening technology at most UK airports was 1 June 2024. One of the benefits of this new system was that passengers would be able to take up to two litres of liquids in their cabin baggage.</p> <p>Birmingham Airport met this 1 June deadline. However, there were “temporary” restrictions placed on the full implementation of this new equipment by national government in the run-up to the deadline and then on 7 June. This caused material, adverse impacts to the original design of the security facility at Birmingham airport. I emphasise that Birmingham Airport was ready to meet the deadline, the only major UK airport to do so.</p> <p>Despite the material impact this regulatory constraint has had, Airport officials are confident that limited adverse impacts on customers will be felt throughout the summer.</p>	

4.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Male</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor K Sandhu, Cabinet Member for Education</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION:</p> <p>“Is the Cabinet Member for Education confident that Coventry schools can cope with the projected influx of children into the state school system assuming the removal of the current VAT exemption and business rates relief on private education?”</p>	

ANSWER:

“We continuously monitor admissions application levels, including reviewing reasons for the request. Coventry has a robust system for forecasting demand for school places, and this model has been updated to reflect the current in-year application trend changes.

We are unable at present to identify the number of pupils that may require a state school place as a result of this change. This is because we do not have access to information on children and young people that live in Coventry that chose to attend a private school – either within or outside of Coventry. We also cannot say with any certainty the number of parents who will remove their children both in the short and longer term as a result of this, but if this policy is enacted we will work with partners to ensure that this is built into our planning.

Due to the high number of in-year admissions we have seen in Coventry over the last 2 years members will be aware that we have experienced challenges around sufficiency; however this also means we have a clear strategy in place to respond to these challenges including the creation of temporary bulge classes, and therefore we are well-placed to respond to demand changes. The Coventry Education Partnership is well briefed on this Strategy and have supported us to achieve additional places.”