
Council Meeting

3 September 2024

Booklet 1

Answers to Written Questions

1.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Lapsa</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Cabinet Member for City Services</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION: “Can the Cabinet Member inform the Chamber how many estates in Coventry have yet to be adopted over 5 years after being built?”</p> <p>ANSWER: At present there are around 100 individual development related schemes that are subject to Section 278 and Section 38 Agreements. Many of these relate to different aspects of the same development, such as New Century Park. In some cases, completion of the adoption process under the S38 Agreement is outside the Council’s control due to the need for third parties, such as Severn Trent Water, to sign off drainage systems installed underneath the highway. In such cases, it would not be in the Council’s interest to adopt those sections of highway ahead of STW sign off to avoid a case where the road needs to be dug up to resolve any issues with the drainage, as the Council would then be left with the cost of making good any resulting damage to the highway.</p> <p>In other cases, the adoption process cannot be completed until the full development of the estate has taken place.</p> <p>The Highways Development Management team is working to bring forward adoption processes relating to development roads that have been substantially completed as quickly as possible, working with STW and developers, but it should be noted that developers are sometimes difficult to engage in this process.</p>	

2.	<p>QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner</p> <p>TO BE ANSWERED BY: Cabinet Member for City Services</p>
<p>TEXT OF QUESTION: “Could the Cabinet Member tell us what are the latest figures for garden waste registrations? How many garden waste bins were being collected before subscription?”</p> <p>ANSWER: The current number of subscriptions is 45,646 properties with a total of 48,418 permits (bins paid for)</p>	

3.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Cabinet Member for City Services

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Could the Cabinet Member tell us how many garden waste bins have been retrieved and taken out of circulation since subscription began?”

ANSWER:

126 brown bins have been removed in the last month and 178 bins the month before.

4.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Could the Cabinet Member tell us how many calls a week are we receiving about garden waste and how is this impacting our customer services department?”

ANSWER:

“Within the telephony platform used for Customer Services we do not separate out calls specifically for Garden Waste subscriptions away from general calls for Garden Waste. However, what we can tell is that we saw a 50% increase in calls generally regarding Garden Waste for May and June this year (monthly calls increasing from circa 3100 in April to circa 4600 May). We know that May and June were our biggest months for subscriptions to the service, so this call increase aligns with that. In terms of impact to Customer Services, this call increase has been managed within existing resources for the Customer Services team with a small, temporary, reduction in call answer rate specifically for Garden Waste calls of (8%) for this period.”

5.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Cabinet Member for City Services

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“In the light of the concerns of many residents for night time safety, what research has been done to assess the safety impact of turning off street lighting at night time.”

ANSWER:

We liaised with other local authorities who have the part night switch off in their areas.

We have liaised with our community safety officers within CCC and all emergency services have been asked to feedback to us on any safety / crime issues which to this date we have not received any negative feedback from them. Our community safety officers have provided information to us that crime in the city was happening in the same areas prior to the switch off.

6.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Can the Cabinet Member explain the 400k overspend last year much of which was attributed to the award of planning appeal cost against the Council with regard to the application for much needed housing development of 690 dwellings at Abbots Lane ultimately granted at planning appeal.”

ANSWER:

The planning appeal costs related to two applications, at Abbots Lane and Wilsons Lane. The total costs included those directly borne by the Council and some appellant costs awarded against the Council. These costs are regrettable, but the democratic role played by Planning Committee is crucial to the effective operation of the planning system and the effective representation of local communities. As Cabinet Member I will always support a democratic process that seeks the best outcomes for Coventry.

7. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor P Male**

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Can the Cabinet Member provide details of missed Council Tax payments for the last 5 years?”

ANSWER:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Reminder notices issued	68,479	97,583	69,432	69,100	75,032
Council tax outstanding at the end of the tax year (£m)	15.9	19.2	22.6	25.4	30.0

8. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Lepoidevin**

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Cabinet Member for City Services

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Can the Cabinet Member for Highways advise why the council highways department is unable to provide a time frame for when the potholes will be repaired in Upper Eastern Green Lane?”

ANSWER:

There are currently no intervention level (safety) defects on Upper Eastern Green Lane in footway or carriageway, although we are aware the road condition is deteriorating at some of the junctions.

A small number of intervention level defects were addressed in July, with the intention of monitoring the situation pending more substantial works later in the year.