

COUNCIL 22nd MARCH 2018

COUNCILLOR STATEMENTS & QUESTIONS

STATEMENT – ITEM 16

1. Richard Samuel

Air Quality

QUESTIONS – ITEM 16

M	01	Question from:	Cllr Dine Romero
Will the Leader of Council write to both Wera Hobhouse MP and the housing minister, in support of a proposal for additional legislative powers that will help tackle the rise of short term holiday lets? We suggest similar powers to that given to the City of London restricting lets to 90 nights per year?			
Answer from:			Cllr Tim Warren
London has been able to impose a restriction because of the Deregulation Act 2015, which gives the GLA the power to implement this policy, but unfortunately does not apply to other areas. A specific Act of Parliament would be required to give us the same power. The Council has commissioned work as part of our Local Plan refresh to update our assessment of visitor accommodation requirements, as affordable housing is essential to our overall housing strategy and we are concerned about the potential loss of housing for our residents from short term holiday lets. This will consider potential policy approaches to tackling any issues, which could include restrictions. This is a subject that the Leader has already written to Government Ministers about and would be happy to continue to pursue with our partners at WECA.			
M	02	Question from:	Cllr Dine Romero
Will the Cabinet Member for education co-sign letters from the Liberal Democrat Group Leader to both the Regional Schools Commissioner and to the Secretary of State for Education asking that secondary schools in Bath and North East Somerset be allowed to expand off-site, by the start of the next academic year, to provide the additional school places needed in the South West of the City of Bath? This will also help address an expected growth in school related travel?			
Answer from:			Cllr Paul May
No. There are sufficient secondary places in Bath for all Bath based children without creating more. We need all parents to use the five option preferences to ensure that they gain priority			

over children from outside the area being allocated places in Bath.

The decision to close the provision at the BCA was taken by the RSC as it was considered unviable to run a mainstream secondary on that site, after considering a range of options. The schools organisation plan looks at existing and future planners predictions for new development to ensure that there are sufficient local places to meet the need. This plan will be considered by cabinet on 11th April.

M	03	Question from	Cllr Paul Crossley
----------	-----------	----------------------	---------------------------

When the planning permission to proceed with the NRR scheme in Radstock was granted, a S106 commitment was made on Linden Homes to pay £180,000 towards the cost of a footbridge connecting areas 2 and 3 to enable a safe walking route to the Junior School and also provide an important role in improving access between the development and the school. Linden paid this money some time ago but the bridge has not yet been built by the Council. Can the Leader please tell us when the Council will deliver this bridge and use the S106 money it got from Linden to do this?

Answer from:	Cllr Tim Warren
---------------------	------------------------

The footbridge will serve the school and will not form part of the public highway. Officers are in discussion with the Head Teacher regarding future maintenance responsibilities. Once agreed, a detailed feasibility study will be undertaken. It is anticipated that the feasibility study will be undertaken during 2018/19 which will include an updated cost estimate and delivery programme.

M	04	Question from:	Cllr Paul Crossley
----------	-----------	-----------------------	---------------------------

How many bus shelters in B&NES are currently awaiting repair and how long has each of them been waiting since first reported?

- I. What steps have been taken to get recompense from the contractor who has not delivered these repairs?
- II. How will the Cabinet Member ensure his team work with the new contractor to ensure a timely response to bus shelter repair?
- III. Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that residents waiting for a bus do not expect to be waiting at damaged and vandalised stops?

Answer from:	Cllr Mark Shelford
---------------------	---------------------------

There are approximately 20 infrastructure repairs outstanding but that figure includes minor repairs to locks on timetable cases as well as missing panels on shelters. Two repairs are outstanding from November because they require non-standard parts which have to be sourced and supplied. The majority of outstanding shelter repairs were reported to us in January and February. Two of those shelters have been hit by vehicles and require major repairs. The collisions were not reported to the Police and there is some suspicion that the damage was caused deliberately.

- I. There is no repair contract in place at present because prior to the installation of a large number of additional shelters as part of the Bath Transportation Package, repairs were ordered as and when necessary. However, this arrangement was not deemed satisfactory and a decision was taken to procure a contract for repairs to be carried out alongside regular cleaning. The new contract will start on 3 April 2018

- II. The new contract includes a response time of 5 working days – with some flexibility if a non-standard part has to be obtained and fitted or if ground works have to be carried out. If repairs are not possible within 5 working days, the site will be made safe as necessary and the contractor will be required to report on progress until resolution. The Council's Public Transport Team will have access to software that logs site visits by cleaning operatives and engineers, so performance against the standards in the contract will be monitored. Also, we are developing a link to the "Fix My Street" software to enable damage reports by residents to go directly to the contractor.
- III. I agree and it is widely recognised that well-maintained infrastructure acts as a disincentive to vandalism. Regrettably though, there are some locations where vandalism seems to be persistent so I would encourage communities to report vandalism to the Police if they see it happening. Steps are taken to make infrastructure safe as soon as possible in the event of substantial damage.

M	05	Question from:	Cllr Tim Ball
The RUH Board has decided to transfer over 500 staff into a Subsidiary company. What communication has the cabinet member had with the RUH on this matter? Would the Cabinet member agree with me that the RUH need to make an urgent presentation to the Health and Wellbeing select committee? Should he agree with me, will he have dialogue with the Chair of the above committee to ensure it takes place at the next available meeting?			
Answer from:			Cllr Vic Pritchard
I can confirm that I have been made aware of this proposal but have not had direct communication with the RUH on this matter. I do agree with Cllr Ball that it would be appropriate to request an urgent presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Select Committee and, to this end, I have discussed this with the Chair of the Select Committee, Cllr Haeberling. I can confirm that a request has been made to the RUH to present at Health and Wellbeing Select Committee on this matter.			