

Question for Full Council Monday 27th October 2014

Question 1

Question to Councillor Mackintosh from Councillor Beardsworth

With the changes in terms and conditions, will the new unpaid sick days have an impact on people's pensions?

Response

The unpaid sick days will not have any impact on pensions.

**Councillor David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council**

Question for Full Council Monday 27th October 2014

Question 2

Question to Councillor Mackintosh from Councillor Beardsworth

If the new unpaid sick days will have an impact on people's pensions, will there be provision to address this shortfall?

Response

The unpaid sick days will not have any impact on pensions.

**Councillor David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council**

Question for Full Council Monday 27th October 2014

Question 3

Question to Councillor Mackintosh from Councillor Beardsworth

Does this Cabinet believe that these changes to terms and conditions will be constructive to staff loyalty, or are they concerned, particularly with the pick up in the private sector, that these changes will lead to our most effective staff leaving?

Response

The Council had to choose between changing the terms and conditions or cutting services and making redundancies.

The options that have been progressed have enabled services to be retained and employees have been able to maintain their salary. The revised terms and conditions are similar to those offered in the private sector so the link between losing the most effective staff to the private sector because of the changes to terms and conditions is not clearly established.

We will continue to monitor turnover levels so that any issues are identified at an early stage.

**Councillor David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council**

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Question 4

Question to Councillor Markham from Mr Norman Adams

Little Cross Street (numbers 33 – 56)

The temporary DECANT and estimated 16 weeks to replace a defective walkway

During the period the council will be responsible for the Council Tax and other associated expenses

What is the cost to the Housing Revenue Account to date 17th October 2014?

Response

The total rent loss is £112,764.37 including the rent associated with the decant properties.

The disturbance payments made are £4037.24

The Council Tax liability is £23,576

There are associated costs regarding removal costs for the decants is £11,250

Additional costs of extra void works to the temporary decant properties of carpeting & repainting is approx. £33,000

There will be additional survey costs & feasibility studies

**Councillor Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing**

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Question 5

Question to Councillor Markham from Mr Norman Adams

I note that NBC gets £8.6 million additional HRA borrowing for 100 units at Dallington Beck.

Will the 100 units be for rent at social rent or the more expensive affordable rent?

Response

The 100 units at Dallington Beck are to be let at affordable rent as this was a condition of the LGF HRA Bid Programme.

**Councillor Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing**

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Question 6

Question to Councillor Markham from Mr Teddy McNabb

What methodology is used in "Individual Needs and Risk Assessment" and "Support Assessment Summary" to determine number of warden visits to vulnerable residents?

Response

Following the Sheltered Housing review a new floating support service was introduced, based on assessing customers support needs and providing that support within our service, or referring to other statutory and voluntary agencies. The aim of the service is to enable customers to live independently for as long as they may wish.

The length and frequency of support visits will be determined by the customer's wishes and assessed needs. The level of support is agreed with customers using a score sheet which will determine the level of support, so that we can agree the amount of visits. This is not set in stone but is a guideline and assists with planning future visits and a Management tool to ensure that staff have capacity within their working hours to provide the support.

Reviews are recommended on a 3-6 month basis, or, led by customer request or change of circumstances.

**Councillor Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing**

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Question 7

Question to Councillor Markham from Mr Teddy McNabb

What is the minimum standard qualification for someone to dictate what number of days a vulnerable resident has warden visits?

Response

Both Support Officers and Independent Living Officers have had intensive training in assessing need and providing support, and this is ongoing to ensure their development. There is also an appeal process and a Management team who will visit customers and review their support if they are unsatisfied. We do not dictate to customers, but agree with them their support and the frequency of visits, in line with their assessed support needs.

**Councillor Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing**

