

Question for Full Council Monday 19th June, 2017

Question 1

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Beardsworth:

Could the Cabinet Member tell me what the final cost was of the Northgate Bus Station?

Response

The capital expenditure on the Northgate Bus station was £7.592m.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

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Question 2

Question to Cllr King from Cllr Beardsworth:

When does the Cabinet Member expect the Central Museum to re-open to the public following the current work and does this include the extension into the Jail Block?

Response

We have taken control of the Gaol block and test so far are up to date.

Final design work is being completed and will be available for the public to view soon with a range of exhibitions and activities going on tour.

A final date will be known once all initial tests are completed. Our top priority is giving our town and visitors the best possible museum we can, not racing to get it open.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety

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Question 3

Question to Cllr King from Cllr Beardsworth:

What is the current estimated total cost of both phase 1 and phase 2 of the Museum project?

Response

Phase 1 remains on budget and it is estimated that it will cost £6.7m in total, once all works are completed. Although there is no commitment whatsoever beyond phase 1, there is scope for significant further development and refurbishment if we wish our museum to become an even greater international attraction in the future. Such future phases could involve additional expenditure of up to a further £14m, which would be funded from external funding pots, sponsorship and fund raising, **and not from the council's own resources.**

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety

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Question 4

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Meredith:

Six months ago I was told that Talavera Ward was next in the programme for tree maintenance and that I would get a copy of the planned programme for my ward. Since then I have heard nothing and no works are taking place. Can the portfolio tell me when residents of this area can expect to see some improvement?

Response

Talavera Ward is included in the second phase of the enhanced tree work, (Zone 2) which is due to be completed by the end of March 2018. We are at the moment reviewing how the first phase of work went and looking at any lessons that can be learnt. The surveying of Zone 2 has yet to be carried out, but once completed, the information will be shared with you, Cllr Meredith.

Actual work on the trees would not happen until later this year/beginning of next year, at a time outside of the nesting season.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

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Question 5

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Meredith:

What progress has been made with the request from Cramden Nurseries, Harborough Road for their lease with the council to be extended? The previous leader of the council ensured the owners, myself and other councillors that this would be dealt with.

Response

I trust you can appreciate this is an ongoing matter. I can confirm that our team has met with the tenants on a number of occasions and we are making progress towards a mutually satisfactory conclusion.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council

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Question 6

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Mr Adams:

Your report makes a number of references to Bed & Breakfast accommodation.

Northampton Defend Council Housing have recently published the cost of Homeless accommodation charges which show figures (April and May) since 2013, it shows £20,463 in 2013 and rising year on year to £269,095 in 2017.

Question:

Do you concur that in the first two months of this financial year NBC have paid Homeless Accommodation Charges of £269,095.42?

Response

Cllr Hibbert to respond verbally.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert

Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

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Question 7

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Mr Adams:

Northampton's Rough Sleepers Count on 9th December 2016 observed a total of 9 people 'bedded down' in the borough.

Do you agree that with Homeless people reporting being kicked in the head, sexually assaulted, having bedding set on fire and being urinated on a great number would be taking steps NOT to be observed?

Response

I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is extremely dangerous for people to be sleeping rough on the streets – and this is why the Council and its partners have been working so hard to end the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton.

The Rough Sleepers Count was very well organised and all of the volunteers involved were provided with the most up to date intelligence about known 'hotspots' and the areas (including woods, cemeteries, stairwells and bin stores) that were most likely to be used by people sleeping rough. Although no-one is pretending that the Count is perfect, it does provide a useful snapshot of the situation.

Anyone finding someone sleeping rough should complete the online form on the Street Link website www.streetlink.org.uk and this information will be forwarded, automatically, to Northampton's Street Outreach Workers at Oasis House.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing