

Question for Full Council Monday 22nd January 2018

Question 1

Question to Cllr King from Cllr Beardsworth

Central Museum and Art Gallery

In your answer to a written question at the last council meeting you replied that the Business Plan together with project estimates for the building and conversion of this scheme would be ready by the end of January 2018 with a report going to Cabinet in March.

I understand that the lead officer carrying out this work has since left the council. Will this affect progress?

Response

The lead officer for the Museum project is Nick Gordon (Cultural Services Manager). He has not left the council, nor has any other key member of the project team or board. Since I responded to your question to the last council meeting, time lines for the business plan and cabinet report are unchanged.

Councillor King

Cabinet member for Community Safety & Community Engagement

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Question 2

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr B Markham

In September 2016, following call-in of the Cabinet's July decision, Cabinet agreed to make an Extra £500,000 available to pursue legal action to recover money loaned to improve facilities at Sixfields Stadium.

How much of that money has been drawn down?

How much has the council spent in legal costs so far in attempt to recover taxpayers' money? Can he update Council as to how much of the original £10.25 million loan has so far been recovered?

Can he confirm that the annual interest payable to the Public Works Loans Board on this debt is?

Response

This is an ongoing litigation, and as such publishing costs and other aspects of tactics does not help the chances of success, but Cllr Markham and other Cllrs are welcome to take updates from the Borough Solicitor. Cabinet will be updated on the legal costs in due course. For historic, previous information, including interest costs please refer to the Cabinet reports on Sixfields.

Councillor Nunn
Leader of the Council

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Question 3

Question to Cllr Eldred from Mr Adams

Following the somewhat shambolic Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 can you provide assurance on their robustness for 2017/18, in particular those around asset valuations?

Response

In preparation for the Statement of Accounts 2017/18, the Council has been working with KPMG, our external auditors, to ensure a robust process and timetable is in place.

With regards to asset valuations, the Council has updated its process, which is planned to be reviewed by the Council's internal auditors (PwC) and has appointed new external valuers who will be providing valuations for inclusion in the 2017/18 Accounts.

Councillor Eldred

Cabinet member for Finance

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Question 4

Question to Cllr Eldred from Mr Adams

I think we are all aware of the concept that defect prevention is more advantageous and cost effective than defect detection and associated rework.

Question: Could you confirmed that financial costs have been incurred due to additional work on the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 and the cost?

Response

As outlined by KPMG in their report to Audit Committee on 29th September, the Council is anticipating additional fees in relation to its Accounts for 2016/17. The agreement of any additional fee will; be made in conjunction with the Council and the Public Sector Authority (PSAA).

A further meeting of the Audit Committee is planned for 8th February at which KPMG will provide a further update on the additional cost position.

Councillor Eldred

Cabinet member for Finance

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Question 5

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Mr Clarke

In your report it states Officers' recommendations – supported by Capita, which has been assisting the Council with its due diligence work and evaluation of the options – are due to be considered at a Special Cabinet Meeting

Question:

Capita is not a charity, what is cost of this due diligence work and evaluation, and which account has paid, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) or the General Fund?

Response

This piece of work has been funded through the HRA and has cost £36,018.

Councillor Hibbert

Cabinet member for Housing & Wellbeing

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Question 6

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Mr Clarke

With the introduction of flexible tenancies a number of years ago, they are now starting to come due for review, if it is decided at that review not to grant a further tenancy, due to financial circumstances having changed for the better.

Question: Do you agree that if push comes to shove, then the tenant may be more likely to exercise their 'Right to Buy'?

Response

Not necessarily. Despite the improvement in their financial circumstances, the tenant may not want to buy the property and, even if they do, they may not be able to afford to buy it.

Councillor Hibbert

Cabinet member for Housing & Wellbeing