ITEM 7

COUNTY COUNCIL
28 NOVEMBER 2013

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 16.1.1

First Questions:

1. From Councillor Fiona Mather to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

"With the winter almost upon us could the Executive Member responsible for the environment outline the level of preparedness of the Highways Team for the advent of flooding and snow?"

2. From Councillor Pat West to the Executive Member for Education:

"Can the Executive Member responsible for education explain the remedial measures implemented by Hampshire County Council following the fire in Winton School in Andover, and how this support has been affected by the Academy status of Winton School?"

3. From Councillor Graham Burgess to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

"Following the recent visit of the Transport Minister, would the Executive Member responsible for the environment update local members on the possible outcome of funding for the proposed Stubbington Bypass?"

4. From Councillor Roger Huxstep to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health:

"Can the Executive Member responsible for adult services indicate what facilities are available for dementia patients in Hampshire, in both council operated care homes and in private care homes in which Hampshire places residents, indicating how many dementia residents are currently placed in council operated care homes and how many in privately operated care homes?"

5. From Councillor Charles Choudhary to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health:

"With recent national concerns surrounding 15 minute visits by Adult Social Care providers, can the Executive Member responsible for adult services explain the proportion of, and use made by, Hampshire County Council for such visits?"

6. From Councillor Patricia Stallard to the Executive Member for Education:

"The temporary buildings of Cornerstone, the new much-needed primary school in Whiteley was completed to schedule due to the dedication and commitment of HCC Officers, and for that I should like to record my thanks. However, would the Executive Member for Education please confirm the timeframe for site completion by the contractors?"

7. From Councillor Alan Dowden to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

"In light of the huge public interest over the proposal to close four County Council residential homes, would the Leader agree with me that the decision should be made by the Full Council, whether to close all or any of the homes?

The Cabinet on 9th December should only make a recommendation to the Full Council. This must happen in order that the public can feel confident that a democratic decision has been made and all councillors have had the opportunity to debate and vote on this decision."

8. From Councillor Keith House to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

"85 Councils and the Mayor of London have signed up for the Living Wage, which evidence shows increases productivity and reduces employee turnover as well as assisting lower paid staff. The Executive Member for Human Resources has now agreed to bring a report forward to consider the Living Wage. Does the Leader aim for this report to be written in such a way that it says how the County Council can, rather than cannot, become a Living Wage employer?"

9. From Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

"The Executive Member will know that the land mass of Hampshire is 1300 square miles. The Executive Member will also know that all domestic food waste in the County is burnt in the incinerators at Chineham and Marchwood - thought to be 90,000 tons and entirely from composite bin rubbish. The latest available figures from Defra suggest that the amount of commercial food waste from all sources in Hampshire is 83,000 tons. This is not put in the incinerators, as domestic food waste is, but goes to other disposal options such as land fill or anaerobic digestion plants. MWPA Officers have now, in the last two years, supported and recommended the building of four anaerobic digester chemical plants that provide for the disposal of 89,000 of food waste - this has been supported by the Regulatory Committee.

Is the Executive Member aware that all four of these chemical plants permissioned to fulfil this function, two on greenfield exception sites and thus contrary to our recently agreed Minerals and Waste Plan, are within a 45

square mile area covering the southern part of the Candovers Division and the northern part of the Alton Rural Division of the County and are all within a 7 mile radius of Alton? Can the Executive Member provide some explanation for this apparent and chronic breakdown in strategic planning in this area?"

10. From Councillor Philip Fawkes to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

"I refer to the Council's decision to invoke a three month break clause on the leasehold of the Spinnaker Bar at the Calshot Activities Centre, the notice served on the 20th September, the vacation required on the 30th December of this year. Whilst I appreciate the business argument for bringing the County's catering arrangements under one 'corporative' roof, does the Executive Member feel that giving the leaseholder, and his appointed manager, three months' notice on a lease that was due for renewal in 2017, reflects well on the Council? Furthermore, would he agree with me that whilst not acting illegally, such callous action - perceived or otherwise - might find our officers and councillors morally wanting in the eyes of the patrons?"

11. From Councillor Jackie Porter to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

"Broadband access is becoming one of the key economic drivers in rural areas. In the light of recent discussions 9at both parliamentary and County Council levels) of the failure and expense of the BDUK programme for BT's fibre based technology to reach remote sites, how is the Local Authority intending to enable much faster broadband in the last 5% of Hampshire households within a time frame that ensures the local economy thrives, and importantly accepting that capacity on these routes will be a challenge in the future?"

12. From Councillor Tony Hooke to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

"In line with the cuts of in excess of 1,000 staff from this Council for next year, what corresponding cuts will be made to the number of members, members allowances and members expenses? Indeed, surely this is the time to replace the Cabinet system with a more democratic and cheaper version by committee?"

13. From Councillor Ray Finch to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy & Resources:

"What is the total expenditure on outside consultancy firms over the last 12 months. Please name by consultancy and the amounts of the top three companies."

[Second questions overleaf]

Second Questions:

14. From Councillor Alan Dowden to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

"The Velvet bus company are withdrawing the 507 service from Valley Park to Toynbee School at the end of the current term. Would the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment explain how the county will ensure that pupils who live in Valley Park, Chandlers Ford will get to Toynbee School each day?"

15. From Councillor Keith House to the Leader and Executive Member for Policy and Resources:

"What are the aims of the County Council's advertorial insert into the Municipal Journal recently?"