

Questions Received for Council – 28 November 2018

3. **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

This is an opportunity for Members of Council to ask the Mayor, Members of the Executive or the Chairman of any Committee or Sub-Committee a question on notice under Procedure Rule 10.2.

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Question 1 - Submitted by Councillor Mrs. Evans

Concerns have been raised about the imminent closure of the Trafford Powerleague site in Davyhulme and the significant and adverse implication for local football teams with the loss of pitches. Whilst this is recognised as a commercial decision, please could the Executive Member advise what steps they are able to take to ensure a good level of provision of pitches for hire by the local community in the borough and where these local teams will be able to play in future?

Question 2 - Submitted by Councillor Evans

In a recent Council news release, the Executive Member acknowledged the overwhelming success of the Town Centre Loan Scheme in supporting new businesses, creating jobs and helping our town centres to thrive. However, at the end of the release it confirmed that the Council has now suspended new applications, why?

Question 3 - Submitted by Councillor Jerome

Residents have expressed concerns that council tree replacements in Altrincham have clearly been purchased from Dutch nurseries. Can this council provide a percentage of trees provided from outside the UK?

Can I ask why this council is buying in trees from nurseries in the Netherlands? The Woodland Trust and the RHS are very concerned about the lack of rigour in the scrutiny of trees entering the UK from Europe with respect to diseases which can devastate native populations. These include trees stocked from China with exotic diseases. Would this council be willing to consider the Woodlands Trust example and use their 'UK Sourced and Grown Assurance Scheme' (UKSG)?

Question 4 - Submitted by Councillor Lally

The subject of fixed penalty notices issued to parents when children have unauthorised absences was discussed at the last school governor meeting I attended. Please can I ask the Member for Children Services how many fixed penalty notices have been issued and subsequently collected by Trafford schools over the period of the last school calendar year and whether a breakdown for individual schools would be made available?

Question 5 - Submitted by Councillor Lally

Following a Panorama investigation; advise was given that peer on peer sexual abuse reported cases represented just 'the tip of the iceberg' in particular reports of sexual offences on schools premises. However numbers have increased dramatically from 386 in 2013-14 to 922 in 2016-17, when reported by 31 police forces across England and Wales - including 225 rapes on school grounds over the four years. Please can I ask the Member responsible, should Trafford join the campaign in calling for a national strategy on sexual violence in schools?

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Question 6 - Submitted by Councillor Lally

Within the Labour Party literature 'the Change Trafford needs' (a manifesto that was published in April 2018), under the heading Getting The Basics Right: Pledge No.21, it states 'we will hold Amey to account to raise standard of environmental services in Trafford.' Despite the continued leaf collection program numerous residents in my ward of Flixton are disappointingly having to wade through piles and piles of fallen leaves that remain on numerous streets. Furthermore with an image of the 'stomach churning sea of poo bags' as the Manchester Evening Newspaper put it; you can see why my residents have difficulty with this promise. Please can I ask whether the Leader of the Council has failed on his pledge?

Question 7 - Submitted by Councillor Lally

Please can I ask the Mayor / Member for Constitution Reform whether any thought have been given to balancing debate within this chamber? Of course members of any colour are open to speak on any subject. However when I refer to balance; I mean length of debate. I appreciate the chamber is limited to a 9.30 p.m. cut off; however as a Member I often find early submitted motions always receive more airtime no matter how repetitive the debate may get which is particularly frustrating when later motions are rushed.