

**COUNCIL MEETING – 15 JANUARY 2020**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO  
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13.3**

**Q1 Councillor Bennett to the Cabinet Member for Technical Services,  
Councillor Stanley**

**Q1** Can the Cabinet Member for Technical Services explain why the Cabinet decided at its meeting on 9 December 2019 to stop live webcasting of Full Council and Development Control Committee meetings, also can he explain what action is taking place to restore our live streaming capacity?

**A1** The Officer report provided to all Members on 9 December 2019 sets out the background for this decision. This highlighted how the webcasting system is not performing well and that the action plan agreed with the Council's supplier is still to be delivered. Therefore, Cabinet supported the Officer view that webcasting should be ceased to limit the risk of future embarrassment to the Council. Meetings of Full Council and the Development Control Committee will still be recorded and available on demand from 0900 the following day. The Cabinet noted that the statistical information in the report confirmed that the level of on demand use was generally higher than live views.

The report also confirmed that the procurement process to improve the system is in pre-tender stage. It is anticipated that Cabinet will receive a further report in the Spring - a date is still to be confirmed.

Cabinet acknowledged that the officer team had taken all steps they could to manage this system and remedy the ongoing issues of concern but as they could not be satisfactorily resolved, this was the best option open to them to maintain a view on demand service.

**Supp**

**Q** I appreciate how hard the Officer Group are working to resolve the issues with the supplier, however, can the Cabinet Member arrange a meeting containing cross party members to meet with the provider so that Members have the opportunity to question them directly? I ask the Cabinet Member to consider this?

**Supp**

**A** For Cllr Stanley to approve – "I will discuss your request with the relevant Officers".

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**Q2 Councillor Kelly to the Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Councillor Stanley**

**Q2** Many householders in the District are burning green, unseasoned timber in wood burning stoves or on open fires. This fuel is being sourced from tree surgeons after pollarding or clearing woods etc. The smell and smoke from this unsuitable fuel is causing considerable annoyance and the amount of unburnt flue gases is adding considerable to airborne pollution. Can the Cabinet Member say whether Arun has any plans to educate the public on the undesirable nature of this practice and educate them to only use properly seasoned wood?

**A2** The Council does from time to time receive allegations that smoke from open fires and wood burning stoves is causing nuisance to neighbouring properties. It is not possible to say exactly how many complaints are received as current reporting does not differentiate from the more numerous complaints about garden bonfires, but they are thought to be low in number.

If a resident is affected the Environmental Health team can investigate. In doing so advice will be provided to the resident with the open fire or stove on best practice in selection of wood burning appliances, fuels, including seasoned wood, their storage and use in order to avoid unnecessary air pollution.

This is often done with reference to guidance and videos produced by BurnRight in the last 12 months. This is a campaign run by chimney sweeps that is supported by DEFRA to help advise best practice in wood burning.

Links to the BurnRight resources have also been added to the Council's website, please feel free to take the time to review these and I would very much welcome your feedback.

Also, it is important to note that air quality in the district is assessed by Environmental Health using the DEFRA methodology on an annual basis and I am pleased to report no part of the district exceeds legal air quality levels.

**Q3 Councillor Charles to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh**

**Q3** At the first Cabinet meeting of your administration the public consultation on Arun's plans for the Pavilion Park were arbitrarily withdrawn. Subsequently you gave assurances that three new schemes were being brought forward for consideration. As nothing has so far been brought forward can you please update Members on any progress made and when it is planned to bring all three schemes to Full Council?

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**A3** A briefing for Cabinet Members was held in November 2019 to focus discussions and establish aspirations for the site. A report will be brought to Cabinet in Spring 2020.

**Supp**

**Q** Can Members receive an assurance that there will be substantial consultation and that this will be open and transparent and available to all stakeholders and residents of the Arun District?

**Supp**

**A** The intention is to have public consultation as part of the process after a report has been brought to a meeting of Cabinet in the Spring of this year.

**Q4** **From Councillor Roberts to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Councillor Oppler**

**A4** Is there any truth in the rumour that Cllrs Dixon and Coster have advised you or anyone in the Cabinet, that if you do not get the change to Committee system through, that they will withdraw their support to your coalition (or whatever you wish to call it)? And is that what is driving the rushing of this, ignoring Audit & Governance, ignoring requests of Councillors for more information, all because of your desire to grasp on to control in your failing coalition which has already seen almost 10% of Lib Dem members leave your party in the last few months?

**A4** No.