



MEETING OF FIFE COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2020

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - QUESTION TIME

QUESTION 1 FROM COUNCILLOR JONNY TEPP

What role does Fife Council have to play with regard to the roll-out of 5g in Fife? Is Fife Council supporting or investing in the roll-out of 5g technology in Fife?

QUESTION 2 FROM COUNCILLOR JONNY TEPP

Can the administration set out its aspirations with for the delivery of online face to face teaching across the key Nat 5 and Higher curriculum in the event of a further lockdown or partial lockdown.

QUESTION 3 FROM COUNCILLOR JONNY TEPP

Local authorities in England can set energy standards beyond building regulations*. Can we do the same in Fife and require higher standards through the planning process now in order to address both climate change and fuel poverty?

* <https://www.ukgbc.org/news/government-confirms-local-authorities-can-set-energy-standards-beyond-part-l-in-nppf/>

QUESTION 4 FROM COUNCILLOR MARGARET KENNEDY

Next month (December), sees the fifth anniversary of the application to develop land to the North of Cupar. Can I ask if there any timescales set by Planning for determination of this application and indeed for the retention of the allocated Strategic Development Area status?

QUESTION 5 FROM COUNCILLOR JONNY TEPP

What annual tonnage of household waste was generated in Fife in 2017,18,19 – and what percentage was recycled, diverted from landfill, and landfilled in each year?

(We appear to be one of the 7 LAs whose recycling rates have decreased since 2011 and 1 of 11 LAs that have decreased since 2016 – if I've read the tables correctly – do we know why this might be?)

QUESTION 6 FROM COUNCILLOR GORDON LANGLANDS

There are growing concerns by residents regarding the continuing closure of the Burntisland Beacon Leisure Centre and in particular the Swimming Pool.

Can we please have an update on the appointed pool consultant's investigations and whether a possible short term solution has been identified to allow the opening of swimming pool in 2021 and the progress of any longer term permanent plan.

QUESTION 7 FROM COUNCILLOR TIM BRETT

How much EU funding has the Council received in each of the last three years? Where has this funding been spent and on what projects?

QUESTION 8 FROM COUNCILLOR TIM BRETT

What preparations and plans has the Council made for a No Deal Brexit on the 1st January 2021?

QUESTION 9 FROM COUNCILLOR DAVE DEMPSEY

Since the governance changes earlier in the year that converted Committees into Sub-Committees, which reports have gone to a Committee or Sub-Committee that is a distinctly different body from that to which they would have been submitted under the preceding arrangements?

I've included "distinctly" as I don't want to be told of reports that went to the X Sub-Committee rather than the X Committee, where X is the same in each of those.

QUESTION 10 FROM COUNCILLOR DAVE DEMPSEY

From time to time a member of the public alerts the Council to a road or street lighting problem whose resolution is down to an external body such as Scottish Water or Scottish Power. If and when the member of the public enquires about progress, is it Council policy to invite the member of the public to enquire directly with the outside body?

QUESTION 11 FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN WATT

Every year, beginning on the 9th of October, Baby Loss Awareness Week aims to raise awareness about pregnancy and baby loss in the UK.

In 2018, Sands, the still born and neonatal death charity, found almost half (49%) of employers did not discuss entitlements to pay and leave with people following the death of their baby. Furthermore, four in ten people were not offered any additional time away from work, four in ten did not feel their employers' communication was sensitive and appropriate and 43% reported that no one talked to them about the death of their baby after returning to work.

What support do Fife Council currently provide for staff who have been impacted by pregnancy loss or the death of a baby?

QUESTION 12 FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN WATT

Following an onsite meeting with fellow ward Councillors, Councillor Vettraino, Councillor Graham and senior managers from Fife Resource Solutions, it was agreed for a report to be carried out to determine if Cowdenbeath Recycling Centre can safely be reopened. Several weeks later, the report came back positive and outlined some changes required to facilitate the reopening of the centre, albeit at a cost of £45,000.

Could the report and breakdown of costs be shared for the benefit of local residents who have been without their local recycling centre for over seven months?