



MEETING OF FIFE COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - QUESTION TIME

QUESTION 1 FROM COUNCILLOR JONNY TEPP

Local authorities have the power to issue fixed penalties to motorists guilty of the offence of engine idling. Fife Council believes that an educational approach and voluntary action is best. Does the administration believe that education without enforcement is normally effective, and can we be reassured that the current approach is working to reduce engine idling around our Schools and public spaces?

QUESTION 2 FROM COUNCILLOR JONNY TEPP

Does the administration agree with Alex Rowley MSP that It is 'time for tougher action on gulls that are terrorising locals across the region' and that we need to 'have a proper review to look at exactly what powers we do have'?

QUESTION 3 FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES CALDER

As part in of the Programme for the Administration stated that as part of Culture Sport and Physical Activity that the Administration "would ensure that every child in Fife should be able to swim and ride a bike safely by the time they leave primary school". Can the Administration provide up to date figures on the percentage of children leaving primary school can swim and ride a bike?

QUESTION 4 FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES CALDER

The King Malcolm Hotel in Dunfermline has recently closed down and the site has been left without any use. Has there been any discussions from Fife Council with both the landlords of the building and the tenant (Peel Hotels) to look into what can be done with the site?

QUESTION 5 FROM COUNCILLOR JANE ANN LISTON

What steps is Fife Council taking to address the shortage of carers across the sector in Fife, both residential and at home, currently being experienced by council, third sector and private providers?

QUESTION 6 FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN ELLIS

While we are all aware of the issues around the waste collection recently in west Fife can council confirm the situation regarding the policy of side waste and how it intends to assist elderly and residents with mobility issues?

On one hand residents are being told they can have side waste yet on any other given time they face a fixed penalty, residents are also being told to take their waste recycling to a recycling point again if they are not able to why should council expect the good will of neighbours or family to assist with what should be councils duty.

QUESTION 7 FROM COUNCILLOR TONY MIKLINSKI

When the booking system for re-cycling centres is ended, will the opening hours revert to those prior to 31 Dec 2019, and if not, what changes have been made and why?

QUESTION 8 FROM COUNCILLOR DAVE DEMPSEY

The Policy & Co-ordination report of 12/4/18 makes many references to £16m of savings, including “the Procurement business case identifies £16m of savings over 3 years with an associated investment of £910k over 2 years”, “The aim of the project is to reduce Fife Council third party spend by £16m ...” and “Deliver £16m operational and financial efficiencies”.

Internal Audit Report 51 of 13/4/21 says, at Reference 7.4 that “The approach the programme took in relation to embedding the team within the Procurement function meant that it was not feasible to separate out the savings specifically in relation to the contract with Scotland Excel. However, there is no mechanism to track the opportunities jointly identified directly as part of the programme activity to procurement savings achieved”.

When was it first known that it was not going to be possible to determine the savings consequential on the Scotland Excel project and who was the first to know that?

QUESTION 9 FROM COUNCILLOR DAVE DEMPSEY

Good quality, successful places are defined by the Scottish Government as those that:

- have a strong sense of character and identity
- form safe and pleasant spaces to be in
- are easy to move around in
- are welcoming to all
- can adapt to changing community needs
- use resources efficiently.

Is Fife Council evaluating Fife’s places against these criteria and, if so, how far has that progressed?

QUESTION 10 FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN ELLIS

Council is asked that as part of the Fife Matters programme that states we must all work together in Fife to find a solution to the climate emergency and clearly states “we’re committed to doing everything we can to help create a safer and cleaner environment, including continuing to invest in greener travel options” including eFife which is a project that supports Fife’s electric vehicle network - from the vehicles and charging points to promoting the benefits of Electric Vehicles”. Can an update be provided on the progress made with introducing street charging points for our residents. There are many projects that can help fund these charging points and our rural areas and villages deserve our focus in providing these charging points.

QUESTION 11 FROM COUNCILLOR DAVE DEMPSEY

Page 54 of the Scottish Government's "A National Care Service for Scotland – Consultation" says "There is no evidence that providing services through the public sector increases quality, in fact in community based services, quality is generally highest among third sector providers". Does Fife Council concur and, if so, how does this relate to the Council's Insourcing policy?

QUESTION 12 FROM COUNCILLOR KATHLEEN LESLIE

Can Fife Council outline what it is currently doing to facilitate availability of interpreters & translators of Dari and EOL learning in schools for Afghan refugees coming to Fife?

QUESTION 13 FROM COUNCILLOR KATHLEEN LESLIE

Can the Co-leaders provide an outline of what projects have been identified for Round 2 of the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund?

QUESTION 14 FROM COUNCILLOR JONNY TEPP

Fly-tipping is a huge problem across the UK. We have wanted to increase the use of CCTV to aid prosecution for some time and we welcome Cllr Ross's pronouncements on this issue which echo our own. He has also been quoted as intending to knock the doors of waste carriers demanding to see their certificates. However, having a certificate is one thing; that in itself does nothing to prevent fly-tipping (The BBC Panorama programme on fly-tipping from March is instructive as to how fly-tippers might be caught out covertly). Understanding the scope of the problem is important – not every report of fly-tipping represents a new case of fly-tipping. Identifying perpetrators and imposing Fines are key deterrent and the current fixed penalty fine is £200 raising to a potential £40,000 and potential imprisonment if a case is prosecuted.

During the lifetime of this administration **for each year**

- How many reports of fly tipping have been received
- How many new cases of fly-tipping were identified as a result (i.e. to net out the effect of duplicated reports)
- How were these cases categorised (e.g. how many cases relate to dumping at recycling points, and any other categories are used by officers to distinguish between types of fly-tipping.)
- How many cases resulted in a fine, and what amount, or imprisonment