

Questions for Full Council Monday 18th January 2010

Question 1

Question to Cllr Beardsworth from Norman Adams

Are you aware that recent legal decisions resulted in

- I. Liberal Democrat controlled Portsmouth having to reinstate onsite Wardens
- II. Conservative controlled Barnet having to keep to the current arrangements

If/when put to the test could you give assurance that how NBC current service was arrived at was legal?

Response

The Council is aware of the recent legal determinations regarding Portsmouth and Barnet Councils and their sheltered housing services respectively.

In reviewing our own sheltered housing service, Northampton Borough Council has kept itself abreast of developments regarding the legal challenges against other Local Authorities.

Each case is made on its own merits and there are fundamental differences between the Barnet and Portsmouth cases and Northampton Borough Council's position. Northampton Borough Council is confident that it has complied with its legal obligations.

Questions for Full Council Monday 18th January 2010

Question 2

Question to Cllr Beardsworth from Mr T McNabb

Could you please state what training is given to Wardens (coordinators) to do the roll of assessor

Could you give details of the following :

- I. At what date was this training available to Wardens in NBC
- II. Is this training a nationally recognised standard (if so name)

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Response

Northampton Borough Council's Sheltered Housing Coordinators have been trained to carry out needs assessments by the Centre for Sheltered Housing Studies. This is an essential requirement of Supporting People and the Quality Assessment Framework without which the Council would not receive funding for its Sheltered Housing service. .

The training entitled 'Promoting independence, Needs and Risk assessment Training' was carried out on:

21 November 2007 – Twenty three Coordinators attended.

22 November 2007- Seventeen Coordinators attended.

Further training entitled 'Linking Needs Assessment with the Support Planning process' will take place on 10 February 2010. The training provider will be The Sheltered Housing Network.

These training sessions are provided by the Sheltered Housing Network and the Centre for Sheltered Housing Studies (now the Centre for Housing and Support) who are both leading specialist providers of training for Sheltered Housing services and provide training throughout the country.

Questions for Full Council Monday 18th January 2010

Question 3

Question to Cllr Beardsworth from Norman Adams

Total number of housing stock subjected to a type 2 Asbestos survey?

- a) How many of them required the removal of some asbestos product
- b) How many of them have been registered with asbestos in situ that will need regular monitoring

c) And finally is that monitoring in place

Response

Total number of housing stock subjected to a type 2 survey? 1721

- a) How many of them required the removal (or seal/encapsulate) of some asbestos product - 212
- b) How many of them have been registered with asbestos in situ that will need regular monitoring - 1104
- c) Is that monitoring in place - yes

Questions for Full Council Monday 18th January 2010

Question 4

Question to Cllr Hoare from Cllr C Malpas

At the last full council meeting I asked the Leader whether or not a consultant was being employed to prepare for the closure of Cliftonville by finding space for additional staff at the Guildhall, and if so at what cost to the authority. The Leader was unable to give me an answer, but kindly agreed to investigate and report back to me.

As of yet I have received no communication, and would therefore like to put the question to Leader of the council again.'

Response

My apologies for not providing an answer to Cllr Malpas since our December meeting.

I indicated when we last met that I was unaware of a consultant providing advice on the relocation of staff from Cliftonville House, one of several steps the administration is pursuing to improve the authority's efficiency and customer service practices.

I can now confirm that in order to prepare an antecedent Options Appraisal, the Council will be engaging specialist advice to make best use of private sector expertise. In so doing, the authority is seeking counsel as to flexible working practices, more efficient use of its office space and attendant improvements to its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems.

The tender process to commission this advice is not yet complete. It is not therefore appropriate to fully publicise details at this stage.

Brian Hoare

Leader of the Council