

## **Question for Full Council Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

### **Question 1**

#### **Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Stone**

Can enterprise prove they are delivering to all the multi tenancies? Many tenants living in HMOs and flats where there is only one external bell and letter box are complaining they are not receiving green sacks.

#### ***Response***

Green sack deliveries are currently in the process of being delivered and will not be complete until the 16th March. Detailed delivery records are held by Enterprise and we have full access to these records for verification and audit purposes. Customers should contact the council if they do not receive green sacks after this date. However please feel free to pass to me now the details of customers who have raised concerns with you and I will be happy to check that they are scheduled for a delivery or to deal with any other queries or concerns they might have.

Councillor Bottwood  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

### **Question 2**

#### **Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Stone**

Can we please have a night time project with Specials working with wardens to stop night time fly tipping?

#### ***Response***

If you would like to discuss your idea with me further I would be happy to consider your suggestion. Neighbourhood Wardens are already contracted to work until 8pm in the evening. They are currently utilised in the way I consider to be most productive but I am always open to ideas as to how we can improve further. I obviously do not have control over police resource and so cannot make any commitment to you in that regard but I am always open to new ways in which we can work effectively with partners from other agencies.

Councillor Bottwood  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

### **Question 3**

#### **Question to Cllr Markham from Cllr Stone**

When the post of Neighbourhood coordinator was abolished the administration promised that Cllrs would receive training in how to pick up this work themselves. When will this training be provided and will it include training on chairing meetings, developing action plans and taking minutes?

#### ***Response***

As you are aware, we are currently in the process of developing next year's training programme. Thank you for responding to the consultation exercise that was undertaken with all councillors. We will shortly be in a position to reveal the new programme.

I agree that it should be a priority to train councillors in the most important skills and knowledge that they need to carry out responsibilities that they hold in the Council. I do not agree that the Council should train councillors in skills that the Council does not require them to be skilled in or which are not a priority in relation to the work of the Council.

Councillor Markham  
**Leader of the Council**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

### **Question 4**

#### **Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Davenport**

What is more important-the colour of the bin bags or the day they are put out?

#### ***Response***

As you know, this Administration inherited the two green sack policy from the former Lib Dem Administration and I am not able to change it until the current contract is renewed in 2018. Residents need to present their waste in accordance with this policy – that is in the correct container, in the right place and at the right time. Compliance with the policy helps both them and their neighbours and I would welcome your support in encouraging compliance

Councillor Bottwood  
**Cabinet member for Environment**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

### **Question 5**

#### **Question to Cllr King from Cllr Russell**

There seems to be an epidemic in domestic violence in Northamptonshire. What steps are the Borough taking to create more awareness of what a healthy relationship is, to empower potential victims and to support child witnesses of abuse?

#### ***Response***

There is not an epidemic of domestic violence in Northampton and I consider such language to be unhelpful to this most serious of matters. There has been an increase in first time reports of domestic violence, which is viewed as a positive in that domestic violence can very often be a hidden crime that can go unreported for many years and that frequently escalates if not tackled. A strong indicator that our policies in terms of prevention and early intervention are being successful is the reduction that has occurred in second/subsequent reports of domestic violence. I would draw your attention to the recent O&S review of domestic violence which sets out very well what the council, the Police and other agencies are doing to ensure the town has in place a robust and extensive multi agency response to Domestic Violence that is making a real and positive difference.

Councillor King

**Cabinet member for Community Safety**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

### **Question 6**

#### **Question to Cllr Markham from Councillor Beardsworth**

Can the administration advise the Council what action is to be taken to address the decline in the number of registered voters following the publication of the 2016 register?

#### ***Response***

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2016 the Office for National Statistics published a comparison of the numbers of registered electors on the Electoral Register as at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 compared with 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

This analysis shows that the total number of UK local government electors in 2015 had fallen 1.3% between those two dates. The number in Northampton has fallen by 1.4%.

The registers as at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 represent the first full registers following completion of the transition to Individual Electoral Registration (IER).

Since December, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Northampton (the Chief Executive) and his team has continued to canvass properties where it is believed that there may be electors who are not registered and will continue to promote registration through appropriate means within Electoral Commission guidance.

The register published by the ERO on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 contains 151,007 electors, a rise of 1.8% since 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015, and the Register is also now in excess of that on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. It is expected that this figure will continue to rise over the coming months particularly as the public focus on forthcoming polls.

Councillor Markham  
**Leader of the Council**

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### Question 7

#### Question to Cllr Markham from Councillor Beardsworth

Given the ward boundaries were developed on numbers including significant numbers of university students, can the administration comment specifically on what it is doing to address the low level of registration in Polling district NN0L2 (the University on Boughton Green Road) where only 43 students are now registered?

#### **Response**

The Electoral Commission published a partial assessment of the December 2015 electoral registers in Great Britain last month. This is the first assessment since the full implementation of IER.

*The Commission states “as highlighted in previous reports, figures and anecdotal evidence from local authorities suggest that student areas have been particularly affected by the transition (to IER), partly due to lower levels of ‘matching’ (to automatically move entries to the new system) for students and partly because of specific new IER provisions, for example the removal of ERO’s ability to ‘block’ register students in halls of residence.”*

It is the latter of these factors that has particularly affected Polling District NN0L2. The ERO and his team are continuing to canvass, including in this District, and I am pleased to report that the number of electors registered in this district is now over 70. This is however still significantly below the number of electors before the completion of IER and further work is to be undertaken to encourage students to register at their place of study where they wish to do so.

It should be noted that students have the right to be registered both at their home and place of study, where relevant. Not all students will necessarily wish to be registered in both places once given the individual right to make that decision under IER.

Councillor Markham  
**Leader of the Council**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

### **Question 8**

#### **Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Meredith**

How often are the verges and wooded areas in the Eastern District supposed to be litter picked?

#### ***Response***

Our contract for these services is an outcome based contract and so work is undertaken based on need rather than at set frequencies. Our contractor is required to keep these areas clean and tidy at all times. If you are experiencing any problems please let me know immediately and I will investigate. If you would like me to visit the area with you to show me first hand any matters of concern to you, I would be happy to oblige.

Councillor Bottwood  
**Cabinet member for Environment**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

### **Question 9**

#### **Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Meredith**

What is the Council doing to ensure the contracts are managed and the litter picks are being undertaken as planned.

#### ***Response***

The council has a contract manager and an assistant who closely monitor the contract through a systematic process of audit, verification, complaint monitoring, performance management and regular site visits. Part of the role of the contract manager is to ensure that issues raised by councillors or their constituents are responded to. Please ensure matters of concern are reported immediately in order that they can be promptly addressed. If you are experiencing any problems in this regard, please let me know so that I can take necessary action.

Councillor Bottwood

**Cabinet member for Environment**