

Question for Full Council Monday 9th July 2018

Question 1

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Beardsworth

On the 5th August a new Park and Ride Facility opens at Sixfields. I understand that this comes as the result of detailed discussions between The University, County Council Highways and this council.

Can the leader tell me if at any time during those discussions the possibility of a bid to the Government Office for Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV), under their grant scheme for vehicle charging infrastructure, was raised?

Can the Leader tell me how many charging points for Electric Vehicles (EV) or Plug in Hybrids (PHEV) there are in council car parks and have the Administration had any discussion with partners (e.g County Highways, Network Rail, Our University, Northampton BID or Taxi operators) about the future provision of charging infrastructure for EVs in the town or the possibility of making a bid to OLEV?

Response

In the particular case mentioned an application for OLEV grant funding was not considered as the car park at the park and ride facility does not meet the eligibility criteria for funding under the scheme. However opportunities for the installation of electric vehicle charge points are being considered at a number of locations. Officers are involved in ongoing discussions with colleagues in NCC Highways and other partner agencies, both about the installation of charging points on NBC land as part of the Smart Corridor project and in respect to opportunities to install charging points within NBC Car Parks. Market research has been carried out with a number of potential providers and procurement processes have been commenced. In addition EV charging points are being installed by developers at a number of locations through the Planning process.

Councillor Nunn
Leader of the Council

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Question 2

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Malpas

Is the leader or any member of his cabinet aware of the upset caused by a Councillor visiting Bellinge on 14 April this year and posting, as far as I am aware, an untrue, derogatory and misleading video regarding the area whilst at the same time pleading for casework in an area for which he has not been elected?

The video posted mentioned a fly tipping epidemic that had been there for years, an increase in violence, antisocial behaviour and went on to imply gang warfare with no evidence given whatsoever.

Is the leader also aware that in 1999 the then Leader of this Council reported to the Chronicle that

“At a residents’ meeting last month people angrily condemned police and council chiefs over what they saw as a lack of action to combat the growing drugs and vice problem on the estate” and then went on to say “Caspar, which stands for crime and anti-social behaviour partnership, was originally begun in Bellinge in 1999 when the area was rife with drug dealing, nuisance teenagers and vandalism. Since then steel fencing has been erected to block off the rat runs, used as escape routes for criminals, and spy cameras were installed in the estate’s main square to monitor criminal activity.”

And this was under the long time ran Labour administration where the councillors representing the area were also members of the Labour group within the council.

Would the leader agree with me that since being elected in 2003 with David Palethorpe and subsequently with Councillor Kilbride, together with the community we have made Bellinge an area to be proud of and can celebrate many achievements such as

1. We have multi agency meetings that we established at Bellinge Community House, inclusive of all interested parties that have or are going to be working in the area. These are well attended by key services and serve the community well. Knowledge and ideas are exchanged and experiences discussed before agreeing a joint plan of action that avoids duplication of services and has gained the respect of external agencies through our community focused approach.

2. The young people have developed considerably and are now role models for young people not just on Bellinge but across the whole of Northampton East. There are now 11 young volunteers who have led 9 social action projects in the community. They have contributed over 340 hours of volunteering and we have more young community minded young people aspiring to follow in their peer’s footsteps.

3. Last Year the community entered into two schemes Northampton Partnership Homes – Community Garden and created a Green Space for residents to enjoy, it was so impressive that residents were coming around on the Bus to view and use this. Such a great achievement in our community, so much so we were Gold Winners for “NPH Community Garden” and Gold Winners for our first year in Northampton in Bloom”

4. The community is proactive in trying to support each other and there is a real positive feeling that has come from spending hours working with residents and empowering them to have ownership and be proud of their own achievements.

Is the leader and his cabinet pleased that long gone are the days of Riots and anti-social behaviour in the area and the only glow is of positive people working as a community.

Personally, I thank all of the professionals, agencies and volunteers who have done so much over the years for their dedication without which we would not have such a thriving community and perhaps one day you may consider visiting Bellinge and seeing all the good works for yourself?

Response

I'm sure we would all congratulate both the residents of Bellinge, and their elected representatives, for the transformation that has taken place since 2003. This council remains committed to enhance the quality of life in all parts of the town, including Bellinge, and I am aware that, following their success in improving the area, many residents of Bellinge are unhappy that others might seek to run their area down.

I would hope that all members of the council would work to improve the town and talk our town up, not seek to run an area down for their own purposes.

I shall be taking up your offer of a tour of the area.

Councillor Nunn
Leader of the Council

Question 3

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Ashraf

What is the sum total of rent arrears that NPH are currently carrying?

Response

At the end of June 2018, the arrears amounted to £1,471,295 (2.93% of the debit).

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

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Question 4

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Ashraf

What is the future of NPH when a unitary is established?

Response

There is no change to NPH.

NPH has a 15 year Management Agreement with NBC which is a legally binding contract. The contract therefore is novated from the Borough Council to the new Unitary Council. There are no changes to the agreement, services delivered, staffing or conditions of service.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

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Question 5

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Ashraf

Has NPH found another site to locate to?

Response

NPH's board are considering a number of options which Cllr Ashraf, as a NPH board member is aware of.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

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Question 6

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Haque

Who are the contractors (ground and internal) for NPH?

Response

Grounds maintenance – Continental Landscapes

Estate Services – Just Ask

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

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Question 7

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Haque

How many complaints to NPH through the contact centre are received in a 12 month period?

Response

In 2017/18, NPH received 207 complaints and, during Quarter 1 of 2018/9, it received 30 complaints.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

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Question 8

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Haque

With complaints to NPH, is there an agreed timescale for response and resolution?

Response

The timescale for response and resolution is 10 working days.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

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Question 9

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Stone

What are the vacancies of the current contractors (Veolia and Idverdi)?

Response

In total employed on the contract between Idverde and Veolia in the future there will be 220 in the summer months and this will reduce to 200 in the winter months. Currently the workforces on both companies are higher than this due to the amount of work that is required to bring the Borough back to standard.

Idverde has currently 81 full term equivalents on the contract.
Veolia has currently 163 full term equivalents on the contract

Total employed headcount 244

There is also in addition to this 68 supplementary agency staff being used on the contract (please see below for more information)

Idverde has one contract management vacancy for a Tree Surveyor - currently being recruited - (No frontline operational vacancies)

Veolia has two contract management vacancies - Operations Manager (recruited - candidate starts on the 10th July) Engagement Officer (recruitment advert closed Friday 29th June - candidates being interviewed this week). (No front line operational vacancies)

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

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Question 10

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Stone

What are the numbers of temporary (Agency) staff they currently employ (% of total staff)?

What re their timescales for full permanent staff?

Response

As detailed the contract is fully manned - agency staff is supplementing the transformation work being undertaken in the Borough.

Idverde is not using Agency but has employed summer staff on fixed term contracts.

Although daily count varies Veolia is using approximately 68 agency weekly. (Circa 48 covering the rolling Monday to Saturday collection schedule, and additional 20 to headcount on street cleansing services. Where collection schedules allow more agency is diverted to the street scene to assist in the transformation project.)

Regarding timescales for permanent staff - Please see information above regarding contract management vacancies - the contract has no operational frontline vacancies.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

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Question 11

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Birch

- a) On the business incentive scheme, how much has been paid out?
- b) On the business incentive scheme, how much has this brought in?
- c) On the business incentive scheme, what is the % of success?

Response

- a) £1,087,886 (£1,213,134 total committed including spent). All the figures are published regularly in my reports.
- b) £6,232,808 private sector leverage.
- c) 144 businesses supported of which only 4 have breached their funding agreement therefore we are looking at over 97% success rate. Businesses failures in the early years are as high as 50% nationally.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning