

## Meeting of the Council

Thursday, 6 December 2012

### Questions Under Standing Order A13

<b>Question (1) by Councillor Faulkner (A) to the Mayor – Mayor Oliver</b>	Mr Mayor here we are again struggling with the Budget Outcome. It was suggested last year having a four/five year plan which would give the opportunity to balance many of the outcomes that will have to be faced surely from this year on, it should be taken on board?
<b>Question (2) by Councillor Parrott to the Executive Lead for Business Planning and Governance – Councillor Pritchard</b>	<p>In view of the troubling allegations regarding the 'political charity' Common Purpose - in the national press (including both the Daily Mail and the Sunday Times) during the week Monday, 12 November to Sunday, 18 November - please could you advise Council as to the numbers of employees of Torbay Council that have received training from Common Purpose over the past municipal 10 years, and within which employment groups and at what levels those employees work (eg) social workers, teachers, communications, human resources?</p> <p>Could you also confirm to the Council that no employees are due to attend such training in the future, and that in view of the seriousness of the allegations, that the Council will put in place a policy precluding any employee training by Common Purpose in the future?</p>
<b>Question (3) by Councillor James to the Mayor – Mayor Oliver</b>	At the last meeting you said that a debate was necessary before you would make a decision on whether to support equal marriage for LGBT citizens in Torbay. What have you done since this time to generate that debate and how soon can we expect a decision on this issue?
<b>Question (4) by Councillor James to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy – Councillor Thomas (D)</b>	Every year millions of people and organisations around the world, including local authorities, take part in Earth Hour, to draw attention to the very important issue of climate change. Will the council be taking part this year and, if so, what will the council be doing?
<b>Question (5) by Councillor Darling to the Representative for TOR2 – Councillor Addis</b>	You will recall that at the last Full Council I asked about the length of time it took to pay invoices. As you know the Council tries to pay invoices (when in order) within 10 days. As a partner organisation I had believed that TOR2 would adopt similar practice. As our rep on TOR2 Can you advise the average time it takes them to pay invoices, month by month over the past 12 months that figures are available for?

<p><b>Question (6) by Councillor Morey to the Mayor – Mayor Oliver</b></p>	<p>We note that in the Capital Budget Monitoring Report presented to Council on Thursday 27 September 2012 the Mayor has allocated £100,000 for “Gateway Enhancement” in Torquay.</p> <p>We note that subsequently he has spent £20,000 on the now infamous Palm tree (commonly known “the Pineapple”) together with visual changes to the highway roundabout, this being carried out apparently without informing his own colleagues.</p> <p>Recognising that keeping members in the dark could have been an oversight on his part, is he now prepared to share with members what other projects he has identified for that area, as there is still £80,000 available?</p>
<p><b>Question (7) by Councillor Darling to the Representative for TOR2 – Councillor Addis</b></p>	<p>You will recall the Deputy Mayor advising all members, at the last Full Council, that there was no need to put questions at Full Council as all questions would be responded to in a timely and informative manner. In light of you failing to respond to me in the last two months to the question below, which I have now formally submitted to this meeting, is it an oversight or disdain, why you have failed to respond in an informative and timely manner?</p> <p>“Dear Peter</p> <p>You will recall that at the last Full Council I asked about the length of time it took to pay invoices. As you know the Council tries to pay invoices (when in order) within 10 days. As a partner organisation I had believed that TOR2 would adopt similar practice. As our rep on TOR2 Can you advise the average time it takes them to pay invoices, month by month over the past 12 months that figures are available for?”</p>
<p><b>Question (8) by Councillor Doggett to the Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy – Councillor Thomas (D)</b></p>	<p>On the subject of future housing developments in the Bay, for example White Rock or Scotts Meadow, would it be possible for provision to be made available for the parking of a visiting Mobile Library Vehicle with seating, located in a friendly area within the development, so that people visiting the library could enjoy reading books prior to borrowing them? This would help, I believe, to build the community ‘atmosphere’, with set up costs hopefully funded by a section 106 agreement.</p>
<p><b>Question (9) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Finance and Audit – Councillor Tyerman</b></p>	<p>The £50 Million over borrowing by Torbay Council is the latest example of Conservative financial incompetence. Can you please advise how much this unnecessary borrowing has cost the Council in interest charges?</p>
<p><b>Question (10) by Councillor Cowell to the Mayor – Mayor Oliver</b></p>	<p>In light of the significant changes to Torbay council’s budget, does the Mayor feel that publishing the budget as late as he has (assuming it has been published) will assist our communities in understanding the scale of change before us? And does he feel that real and meaningful consultation can be undertaken in such a short period? Have you failed to improve upon the debacle of last year’s consultation and the ability for Overview and Scrutiny to do its’ job properly?</p>

<p><b>Question (11) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Children's Services – Councillor Lewis</b></p>	<p>On the 21 November 2012 the Children's Commissioners office for England published an interim report regarding Child sexual exploitation. In light of Torbay's children's safeguarding service continuing to be under intervention and the local child exploitation highlighted by operation Mansfield, What lessons can be learnt from this report from the Children's Commissioners office?</p>
<p><b>Question (12) by Councillor Cowell to the Mayor – Mayor Oliver</b></p>	<p>I am sure the Mayor would join me in welcoming the coming together of Torbay's voluntary sector and the plan to form a Co-operative – yielding the strength of unity, experience and the ambition to be able to help supply some of the services the council will be unable to.</p> <p>Will the Mayor allow Torbay Council to support departments, including Tor2, that wish to explore the benefits of developing a co-operative if it helps to protect services and meet the challenging budget cuts imposed by the Coalition government?</p>
<p><b>Question (13) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Finance and Audit – Councillor Tyerman</b></p>	<p>Budget monitoring for quarter 2 for 2012-13 is on this Councils Agenda. The delay in publishing this report has resulted in no Scrutiny. Is this a satisfactory arrangement?</p>
<p><b>Urgent Question, allowed by the Chairman in accordance with Standing Order A13.2 (ii) by Councillor Parrott to the Mayor – Mayor Oliver</b></p>	<p>If he will join me in expressing our concern at the decision made by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to remove three foster children from their home because their foster parents are members of the UK Independence Party, and thereby reassure foster carers and prospective foster carers and prospective adopters in Torbay (where there are currently some 256 children in care) that they will not be discriminated against on the grounds of which political party they may belong to or for whom they may vote?</p>