

Annual Meeting of the Council

Wednesday, 11 May 2016

Questions Under Standing Order A13

<b>Question (1) by Councillor Sanders to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</b>	<b>Will he explain how removing disabled parking spaces from Hele Road is consistent with the Disability Discrimination Act?</b>
Councillor Excell	<p>Disabled bays such as the ones in Hele Road are provided as advisory markings only and do not have a Traffic Regulation Order attached to them.</p> <p>When a Controlled Parking Scheme is introduced to a street a new legal order is put in place and parking can then be controlled by the issue and display of residents permits. In order that the authority is able to enforce these types of parking schemes, it must ensure that all signs and markings are in accordance with the Traffic signs and General Directions Regulations. Advisory markings sometimes conflict with the legal status of the markings in this case, making it difficult to enforce.</p> <p>A Controlled Parking Zone is only considered where there is majority support from residents and all eligible residents will have equal opportunities to purchase parking permits for their area and have the advantage of some priority to park in their street. However no one has any legal right to park a vehicle outside of their property.</p> <p>Generally when a new scheme is introduced advisory markings are removed to avoid conflict. This is not contrary to the requirements of the Disabilities Discriminations Act, as this relates solely to the legal requirements of controlling vehicles parked on the public highway.</p>
<b>Question (2) by Councillor Sanders to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance and Regeneration (Mayor Oliver)</b>	<b>What was:</b> <b>a) the total full-time establishment of Torbay Council in May 2011 compared to the full-time current establishment; and</b> <b>b) his assessment of the effectiveness of Council Officers to respond to Councillors and the public as a consequence?</b>
Mayor Oliver	<p>The full time equivalent staff for the core Council in May 2011 was 1213, as at 30 April 2016 this was 841.</p> <p>With such a reduction, there is no doubt that the ability of officers to respond has been affected. However all officers are doing an excellent job within this context.</p>

<b>Question (3) by Councillor Sanders to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance and Regeneration (Mayor Oliver)</b>	<b>What assessment he has made of the impact on employment, external support and the economy of Torbay if the UK votes to leave the EU, and what advice he will be giving voters?</b>
Mayor Oliver	No assessment has been made. With regard to advising voters, I have none, it is up to the UK electorate to decide and the government to give a lead, pending the outcome.