

## Meeting of the Council

Wednesday, 1 February 2012

### Questions Under Standing Order A13

<b>Question (1) by Councillor Parrott to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration – Mayor Oliver</b>	<p>At the meeting of full Council held on 29 November 2011, Councillor Doggett and I tabled a motion that:</p> <p>'Torbay Council rejects totally the government's plans to implement a badger cull from 2012. In view of its stance, Torbay Council requires that the killing of badgers is prohibited on all land that is under the protection of the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. Furthermore, Torbay Council is completely opposed to any pilot cull taking place in the South West.'</p> <p>You decided that the motion would not be considered by full Council, but that it would be taken up elsewhere and that a view would subsequently be taken. The people of Torbay are still waiting for their Council to support their view that this is a disgusting cull, and that we totally reject the coalition government's pathetic attempts to justify the revolting activities of bloodthirsty gun fanatics. Please can we have an update on when we can expect the Council's statement that the infamous South West pilot will not apply on any lands within our borough?</p>
<b>Question (2) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Children, Schools and Families – Councillor Lewis</b>	<p>What areas of the children's services were inspected as part of the Ofsted safeguarding inspection in October 2011?</p>
<b>Question (3) by Councillor Cowell to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration – Mayor Oliver</b>	<p>A recent report published by the GMB Union, based on Office of National Statistics Data, shows that 1 in 4 of households in Torbay with members aged between 16-64 have no one in work. Clearly a distressing statistics on its' own.</p> <p>Add to this a further report from End Child Poverty which shows Torbay has the second highest rate of child poverty in the South West – 22%; three wards in Torquay Watcombe (35%), Ellacombe (30%) and my ward of Tormohun (29%) are among the worse in the region.</p> <p>Can the Mayor update us on what activity has taken place since the Employment Task Force was agreed on December 8<sup>th</sup> and has he now set a timetable and established any key targets with dates?</p>

<p><b>Question (4) by Councillor Darling to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration – Mayor Oliver</b></p>	<p>During the Mayoral Elections you promised to use a portion of your allowance as a fund for communities to bid for. Can you please advise of the awards made so far and whether you plan to continue this scheme for the full four years of your term?</p>
<p><b>Question (5) by Councillor Pentney to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration – Mayor Oliver</b></p>	<p>In this and last financial year how much money has been pledged/committed to the RICC?</p>
<p><b>Question (6) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Tourism and Environment – Councillor Richards</b></p>	<p>I have been advised by officers that unless over grown hedges from private land threaten a foot path that no action will be taken to stop this encroachment of public open space. Can you please confirm that the administration of the Council agrees with this approach to public open space?</p>
<p><b>Question (7) by Councillor Darling to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration – Mayor Oliver</b></p>	<p>Members of the public have raised with me their concerns that the budget consultation process only had closed questions. Was this a mistake?</p>
<p><b>Question (8) by Councillor Darling to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy – Councillor Thomas (D)</b></p>	<p>I understand that Torbay participates in the Devon wide textile bank contract. How has the local authority ensured that this contract has a low carbon foot print?</p>

<p><b>Question (9) by Councillor Darling to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy – Councillor Thomas (D)</b></p>	<p>What actions has Torbay Council taken to bring back into use or redevelop the former B &amp; Q building in Torre, that has been empty for years?</p>
<p><b>Question (10) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Business Planning and Governance – Councillor Pritchard</b></p>	<p>I note that Torbay Council refused the Speaking Out for Torbay petition comprising 800 signatures. Whilst this maybe constitutionally correct would you agree with me that it may have been in the public interest to accept this petition?</p>