

Meeting of the Council

Thursday, 12 July 2012

Questions Under Standing Order A13

Question (1) by Councillor Darling to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration – Mayor Oliver	<p>Figures compiled by credit-rating company Experian and published in the online Guardian show that around 22,000 households in Torbay were at risk of poverty if the economy takes a turn for the worse.</p> <p>In light of these findings what assurances can you give this Council that you are ensuring that the administration is placing the right emphasis to diversify our economy to guarantee the we move away from being too dependent on Tourism and the Public Sector and towards better paid jobs?</p>
Question (2) by Councillor Pountney to the Executive Lead for Safer Communities and Transport – Councillor Excell	<p>I am pleased to read recent reports that Torbay Council has awarded almost 200 Torbay businesses full marks as part of the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. However, I am also aware that Teignbridge Council completed their inspection of over 1,200 local businesses in the district some time ago. When will Torbay complete this inspection, so that residents can be fully informed about the hygiene of businesses serving them?</p>
Question (3) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Safer Communities and Transport – Councillor Excell	<p>Why does this Council allow a badly behaved minority dictate to the majority of respectable law abiding citizens and close a perfectly good pathway below Babbacombe Downs due to anti social behaviour.</p>
Question (4) by Councillor Faulkner (A) to the Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy – Councillor Thomas (D)	<p>The number of households accepted as homeless between January and March went up by 2% on the previous quarter and up 16% on the same quarter as last year, according to the new government statistics, whilst I realise that this is not appertaining to Torbay we are finding the increase is affecting us. Please could the Portfolio Member reassure me that all steps are being taken to alleviate this problem that we face, such as bringing pressure to bear on the government to help relieve our particular state of affairs in Torbay, and discussing with the housing associations if they are relocating residents from larger properties who have found that they are too big to cope thereby relinquishing them to larger families who require them?</p>
Question (5) by Councillor Darling to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration – Mayor Oliver	<p>At the adjourned meeting of the Council on 30 September 2011 it was decided to defer consideration of the above to the Council meeting on 31 October 2011. A new report was submitted setting out proposals to repair the defective structure of the 'banjo' and the eastern section of Princess Parade, Torquay, to enable the closed sections to be reopened as soon as possible.</p> <p>It was proposed by Mayor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Excell:</p>

	<p>(i) that the capital programme for 2011/12 be amended to provide £800,000 to carry out the first phase of repairs to the promenade and upper level of the Banjo to be opened for the Summer of 2012;</p> <p>(ii) that the capital programme for 2012/13 be amended to provide £2.15 million to fund the second phase of the repairs to the structure to secure its long term future;</p> <p>(iii) that tenders be invited and a contract let to carry out repairs to the Eastern Promenade and minimal repairs to the banjo. The contract is to commence in early 2012 to allow the promenade and banjo to be open for the summer 2012;</p> <p>(iv) that the second phase of the works to provide long term repairs to the banjo and eastern promenade be progressed and a contract let in July 2012 unless alternative proposals to redevelop the area have been approved by the Council; and</p> <p>(v) that, subject to alternative capital resources being identified, the project is funded from prudential borrowing to be financed from the Council's revenue budget. The financial implications to be reflected in future year revenue budgets.</p> <p>In light of section (iv) can you explain why no alternative solutions have been brought to members and a planning application progressed, for the banjo, when there is a private sector solution that could save tax payers in Torbay hundreds of thousands of pounds?</p>
<p>Question (6) by Councillor Cowell to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration – Mayor Oliver</p>	<p>Is the Mayor aware of the public feeling towards a Third Harbour and can he assure us that if the conclusion of any environmental impact study states the extension would be detrimental to the environment then he will scupper his idea before any more public money is wasted?</p> <p>What resource implications have there already been and will be in the future for officers and is this scheme a distraction from other more immediate projects for regeneration?</p> <p>What mandate does the Mayor have to pursue his project considering the widespread opposition to it and financial implications on a hard pressed authority?</p>