

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 13 September 2023

a) Question from Sue Owen to Councillor S Spencer, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Budget

“The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is proposing that all Local Government Pension funds should be transferred into less than 8 pools by 2025, with 5% of funds allocated to levelling up. While we support investment in local sustainable projects and housing, we see this proposed change as a severe curtailment of local democracy. It will mean that local councils have virtually no control over their pension funds to which the people they represent have contributed their earnings.

I also asked a question previously about the Economic Activities of Public Bodies (overseas matters) Bill. Both these proposed changes represent a profound attack on local democracy.

Will Derbyshire County Council defend local democracy and oppose these proposed changes to pension funds, and what has or will be your response to both the consultations?”

b) Question from David Ingham to Councillor S Spencer, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Budget

“After raising a Performance and Monitoring report query, HR Services advised on 21-03-23 that previously reported 2022/23 absence rates were incorrect due to calculation errors. Quarter 1 was reported as 5.4% instead of 5.3 %, Quarter 2 as 5.7% instead of 5.4% and Quarter 3 was reported as 5.5% but subject to change.

I was informed adjustments would be made clear in future Cabinet and Full Council reports. An FOI request was also subsequently submitted for background information. However, I note the Quarter 4 report to Cabinet on 27-07-23 made no reference to Quarters 1 to 3 errors, instead comparing the 2022/23 year end figure to the 2021/22 year end figure.

The Corporate Performance Management Framework states (under Principles - honesty and transparency) reports should accurately reflect the true picture. What error margins are acceptable to Cabinet and before any published Performance data also has to be publicly corrected?”