

ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 22 May 2024

1) Question from Councillor G Kinsella to Councillor C Cupit, Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport

“There have been over 450 flood resilience applications received by Derbyshire County Council, the majority relating to Storm Babet in October 2023. Over six months later and still no payments have been made. How much longer must residents wait to receive this much needed support?”

2) Question from Councillor G Kinsella to Councillor C Cupit, Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport

“On three occasions over the past year, I have asked if the Administration will publish performance information on a ‘right first time’ approach to pothole repairs. When pothole repairs fail within a six-month period this is reported to the public. When I asked this question at Full Council in September 2023, Councillor Cupit said “I completely agreed on ‘right first time’” and went on to say that she had “been discussing how to better represent key highways’ performance indicators”. Can she update me on how this work has progressed and whether a ‘right first time’ approach will be reported to residents?”

3) Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Care

“At the time of the last debate on Care Homes, it was said that fears of the closure of more care homes in the future were ‘plain scaremongering’. We now face just that: a plan to close more care homes. Who was correct during the previous debate and how can we believe any guarantees that are given during this debate?”

4) Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Care

“What is the physical maximum occupancy for each of DCC’s care homes, what is the current number of advertised vacancies and what is the current occupancy (by number and percentage) for each of the care homes?”

5) Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor C Hart, Cabinet Member for Health and Communities

“Would the Council consider developing a partnership front-line service of DCC staff in Adult Care and trained with an understanding of mental health to work in Chesterfield in connection with the Hospital, CBC and Police to enable an earlier intervention and a more nuanced constructive engagement with what are often difficult situations in the Market Squares? Can consideration be given to a highly visible 1-stop shop open at the hours needed to secure effective engagement for those people who find themselves in need of help and advice, so we can provide pro-active assistance before someone’s life enters a downward spiral.”

6) Question from Councillor R George to Councillor A Dale, Cabinet Member for Education

“When will plans be announced for the £30 million of SEND capital funding allocated to Derbyshire but so far unspent?”

7) Question from Councillor L Ramsey to Councillor C Hart, Cabinet Member for Health and Communities

“Re: the proposal to consult on the cessation of Corporate Services and Transformation discretionary grant funding, how and what will be used to ensure residents of Derbyshire can still access vital support services in all these areas, as the cessation of funding could cause organisations to close?”

8) Question from Councillor L Ramsey to Councillor C Cupit, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“Can Derbyshire County Council carry out and an urgent review into traffic around all schools in the Derbyshire area, to ensure safer roads and to reduce the risk of accidents and injuries, protecting the most vulnerable members of the community?”

9) Question from Councillor A Clarke to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Care

“In the list of closures to be consulted upon, Jubilee Centre New Mills, appears along with other Day Care Centres. You have publicly stated that ‘Derbyshire has an aging population choosing to live at home for as long as they possibly can, and that DCC must look to meet those needs’, also that ‘dementia sadly is, high up there, as a need for people in Derbyshire’.

The majority of the Jubilee Centre’s residents have dementia, the website advertises that, ‘A patient centred approach is taken to all activities to promote and maintain independence. Staff are fully trained in dementia care’. Jubilee Court provides professional support for dementia sufferers and helps maintain residents in their own home. Two criteria highlighted as important by yourself and this council.

So why, have you not included at least one option in the consultation where such Day Centres would be retained?”

10) Question from Councillor A Haynes to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Care

“What promises and reassurances has Derbyshire County Council given to the Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire, Heather Wheeler MP that the Castle Court Care Home would not close?”

11) Question from Councillor J Bryan to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Care

“Regarding adult social care co-funding - a resident recently contacted our parliamentary candidate, Dr Adam Thompson, to alert us to the fact that their co-funding bill has recently skyrocketed from £200 to £360 per month. What support is the council going to give to help people like my constituent who are struggling to pay this money for the services they desperately need?”

12) Question from Councillor J Bryan to Councillor A Dale, Cabinet Member for Education

“How many children across the county are currently waiting for a school place, and what efforts are being made to get these children into schools?”

13) Question from Councillor J Bryan to Councillor C Cupit, Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport

“For many months, residents in Long Eaton and Sawley have been blighted by roadworks on Tamworth Road that disrupt the whole town for weeks at a time. Roadworks have been near-constant, and gridlock has become a permanent fixture of our town - local residents have even defaced local "Welcome to Sawley" road signs with additional slogans proclaiming our town as the "Home of Roadworks"! What is the Cabinet Member doing to ensure roadworks are planned to minimise disruption and done in a timely manner?”

14) Question from Councillor C Dale to Councillor J Patten, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

“In a recent Cabinet paper subject to consultation, to charge Parents and, Guardians of children taken into local authority care and also directly charging children of 16 years who are already in care; If the authority fails to recover contributions for their care from the parties, will the child no longer be eligible for local authority care and what will happen to them?”