

WRITTEN QUESTIONS – FULL COUNCIL – 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

1. MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT – 4 AUGUST 2015

Min No. 19

Question submitted by Councillor R Wright and response of the Cabinet Member for the Environment

1. Trade Recycling

I understand that our trade recycling is taken to Exeter City Council for sorting by them.

a) What is the net annual cost of this to MDDC and how is this made up?

RESPONSE

The operational cost of running trade recycling is circa £50k (this includes officer time, collection staff, vehicle and other misc. costs). This is fully offset by income from fees paid by customers and the amount we receive from Exeter CC – based on £16 per tonne of product recycled.

b) What percentage increase in our business would ECC be able to cope with?

RESPONSE

ECC have plenty of capacity so I would estimate a 100% increase.

2. CABINET – 27 AUGUST 2015

Min No 55

Question submitted by Cllr N A Way and the response of the Head of Housing and Property Services

As of 1st September the number of people on the Housing Waiting list is recorded as 2,290.

How many people are currently being looked after in Bed and Breakfast accommodation by the authority?

RESPONSE

1 person in B&B & 13 applicants in other temporary accommodation (Self-contained flats)

(This has been the average amount of applicants/families in temporary accommodation for the last 12-18 months)

Please note that when the local B&B's and other local self-contained accommodation units are full, we use other accommodation units in Exeter, Taunton, Honiton.

How does this compare with previous years?

RESPONSE

2014/2015 = 2 persons in B&B & 9 applicants in other temporary accommodation (Self-contained flats) 3 singles & 8 families

2013/2014 = 1 applicant in B&B & 4 applicants in other temporary accommodation (Self-contained flats) 1 single & 4 families

2012/2013 = 1 applicant in B&B & 7 applicants in other temporary accommodation (Self-contained flats) 3 singles & 5 families

2011/2012 = 3 applicants in B&B & 5 applicants in other temporary accommodation (Self-contained flats) 2 singles & 6 families

How many families with children does this include?

RESPONSE

As above

In what towns or general locations are people affected now being accommodated by the authority?

RESPONSE

See below

What is the breakdown of the general areas within the District and from elsewhere where people affected last lived before entering bed and breakfast accommodation?

RESPONSE

1x Single person in B&B (Exeter) previously from Chawleigh

3x Single Persons in other self-contained accommodation (Cullompton) previously from Cullompton

1x Single Person in other self-contained accommodation (Tiverton) previously from Barnstable but has connection)

1x Single Person in other self-contained accommodation (Tiverton) previously from Sandford

1x Single +Pregnant in other self-contained accommodation (Tiverton) previously from Tiverton

1x Single +child in other self-contained accommodation (Cullompton) previously from Crediton

1x Single +child in other self-contained accommodation (Cullompton) previously from Tiverton

2x Single +child in other self-contained accommodation (Tiverton) previously from Tiverton

2x Couple in other self-contained accommodation (Tiverton) previously from Cullompton

1x Couple in other self-contained accommodation (Tiverton) previously from Willand

3. CABINET – 30 JULY 2015

MIN 46

Question submitted by Cllr Mrs J Roach and the response of the Head of Communities and Governance

1. Mid Devon DC RIPA policy states that "members of the Scrutiny Committee should review this policy annually "to ensure it remains fit for purpose.....the SC should also consider reports on the use of the powers under the act on a yearly basis" I am aware that it was reviewed in July 2014, has there been a more recent review?

RESPONSE

The policy was reviewed by the Assistant Surveillance Commissioner at the inspection and his suggested amendments have been accepted by Amy Tregellas as Senior Responsible Officer for the Council. Cabinet was briefed and noted the report prepared by the Assistant Surveillance Commissioner at their meeting on 30 July 2015. The RIPA policy has been changed to reflect that it will be reviewed annually by the Cabinet rather than the Scrutiny Committee as it is more appropriate for Cabinet to do so.

2. The Home Office require that CHIS and CSPI are reviewed once a year by elected members and that in both cases that reports on the 2000 act are given quarterly. Members are also required to ensure that the policy remains fit for purpose. Sir Christopher Rose asks that the policy be amended to ensure that elected members receive regular reports in compliance with the codes. Have these requirements been met?

RESPONSE

The Council does not use Covert Human Intelligent Sources (CHIS). The Code of Practice for Covert Surveillance and Property Interference does not state that reports on the use of RIPA are given quarterly rather paragraph 3.35 states that these should be on a regular basis. The Council has not obtained approval to use RIPA for 18 months (the last authorisation is dated 13.3.14) so there hasn't been any activity to report on. Cabinet were informed about the use of RIPA at their meeting on 30 July 2015.

3. Sir Christopher Rose in his letter to the Chief Executive states "I shall be glad to learn that your Council accepts the recommendations and will see they are implemented."

Why did the decision notice just say that the report had been noted and why does the minute not reflect the reality i.e. that a report had been received from the information commissioner requiring action?

Is it the intention to confirm to the Information commissioner that MDDC will accept his recommendations and will see that they are implemented?

RESPONSE

The report was from the Assistant Surveillance Commissioner not the Information Commissioner. The recommendations have been accepted as mentioned in the answer to question 1. The Senior Responsible Officer will ensure that the recommendations are actioned in a timely manner.

4. Why was a recommendation from the previous report (2012) not acted upon?

RESPONSE

The recommendations in the previous inspection report were brought to the attention of the authorising officers at the time. One of the authorising officer's, who has now left the Council, did not ensure that cancellations included directions for the management and storage of any surveillance product. If the Council engages in RIPA in the future, the cancellation will provide these details.
