

WRITTEN QUESTIONS – FULL COUNCIL – 4 NOVEMBER 2015

1. CABINET – 22 OCTOBER 2015

Min No 77

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

At the Council meeting in September I asked if there had been a review of the RIPA policy. I was informed that the RIPA policy had been changed to reflect that it will be reviewed annually for compliance by the Cabinet rather than Scrutiny. I note that this change was made at the Cabinet meeting in October. I note also that the revised policy agreeing this change was passed by the CWB in October. Why was I told in September that changes had already been agreed? At the September Council meeting the Chief Executive told Council that he had told the management team not to use RIPA..."that they should just not operate it, full stop" Has the Chief Executive now reversed this instruction?

RESPONSE

The Cabinet at their meeting on the 5th February 2015 changed the policy framework so that the RIPA Policy went to the CWB PDG and then to Cabinet.

The Surveillance Inspector visited MDDC in April 2015 and then sent a report through. We responded to that report as per the Surveillance Officer request.

The feedback from the Inspector was included in the review of the policy and the review took place in September and then went to CWB PDG on 13th October and then Cabinet on 22nd October.

With regard to the last sentence, this instruction has not been reversed.

2. CABINET – 22 OCTOBER 2015

Min No 79

Question submitted by Cllr Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration.

The effect of this decision will be to put back the submission of the Local Plan. Why has there been such a delay in identifying the need to undertake more technical work? Is this Council at risk in relation to the Housing and Planning Bill 2015? Will the affected householders be informed of the delay? The cost of the work is £100k, where is that money coming from?

RESPONSE

The effect of this decision will be to put back the submission of the Local Plan. Why has there been such a delay in identifying the need to undertake more technical work?

The Environment Agency did not identify the need for this extra work at the consultation stage. This has only come to our attention more recently as part of ongoing work with statutory partners prior to submission. Detailed work of this nature is not normally required at this stage in the planning process, however because of previous flood events, the Environment Agency wishes to understand in more detail the implications of any scheme crossing the floodplain at Cullompton in terms of the floodplain and flood flows. To this end detailed design and flood modelling work is required and must be completed to their satisfaction. The Environment Agency will not support the plan as proposed without the detailed design and flood modelling work being undertaken on the Cullompton highway arrangements, in so far as they cross the flood plain.

Is this Council at risk in relation to the Housing and Planning Bill 2015?

Mid Devon District Council already has a current adopted Local Plan in place, and many other authorities currently do not. The current timetable is for the emerging local plan review to be adopted by January 2017, which would be in line with the Government target in any case. The latest advice from the Planning Advisory Service is that we are not likely to be at risk.

Will the affected householders be informed of the delay?

It is unclear which households Cllr Roach has in mind. The local plan has a district wide coverage. It is not currently envisaged that there will be any major modifications to the plan, if there were to be, then additional consultation would be undertaken. Any additional blanket correspondence at this stage to residents, businesses and other interested parties would be unnecessary at this stage. The Council's website has been updated to include the revised timetable.

The cost of the work is £100k, where is that money coming from?

The funds for this project would be sourced from the Council's reserves.

3. CABINET – 22 OCTOBER 2015

Min No 83

Question submitted by Cllr Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

The budget shows a spend of £88k for agency staff for the waste services. The monitoring report shows a spend to date of £77k, thus leaving approx, £10k for the next six months. This could lead to an overspend of £100k if the current level of spending continues. Is the figure for April to September in relation to agency workers correct?

RESPONSE

Agency spend is higher due to the covering of vacant positions in the service with agency staff so the overspend is offset by a £39k underspend on salaries. There have been two long term sickness to cover for. There is also a larger than normal spend due to the roll out of the new scheme. Agency staff have been used to back fill collection routes while

permeant staff are used for deliveries of new containers. There was a budget of £28k for this.

4. CABINET – 22 OCTOBER 2015

Min No 74

Question submitted by Cllr Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

Is it proposed to issue enforcement notices to people who put kitchen waste in their paid for brown bins?

RESPONSE

No plans at the moment. We will be commingling this waste until March 2017 but we will need to educate the residents to separate these two materials by that date so they can be treated separately.