

County Council – 9 November 2017

Questions from County Councillors

Questions from Cllr Jon Andrews to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community and Resources in relation to Central Government Funding

Question

What representation has our new cabinet made in pressuring our Dorset MPs to get the Treasury to look at the unfair central government funding formula.

This formula is having a severe impact on DCC's ability to provide statutory services let alone the non-statutory services that our residents expect. An £11.5 million cut in 2018/2019 is not sustainable. The average shire county gets an additional £70 per person more than us and we have to bear in mind that we keep the average down.

Has the Dorset shortfall been brought up with MPs and if so when? What action has been decided?

Will the Leader commit to sending a delegation to Westminster to lobby for change both to the new funding formula and the Dorset shortfall and to ensuring that all political parties are involved?

**Question from Cllr Susan Jefferies to the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education,
Learning and Skills in relation to the Youth Service**

Questions

1. Is it true that less than 2 years after the last reorganization of the Youth Service, which saw all the Youth Clubs closing and the majority of Youth Workers lost, that more consultation and reductions are planned? That newly created DCC Family Zones are to be reviewed and Youth Worker posts to go?
2. How is this going to leave our Young People, particularly when they have to wait for an appointment with the CAMHS service for too long?
3. Has an Equality Impact Assessment been done? Does this chime with the pledge to increase Early Intervention?

Question from Cllr Susan Jefferies to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills in relation to the Children's Transport Appeals process

Questions

I understand from the Children's Transport Appeals process that the County Council is now using a new GIS system to more accurately calculate distance from children's homes to schools. This system is apparently not available to the public, nor easy to use without training. This means it is not available to the general public, in particular to parents, when making decisions about applications for School admission. Does the Leader of the Council consider that this is transparent and fair to the Council Tax payers?