

**Full Council – 17 October 2019**  
**Questions from Councillors**

**Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Carole Jones**

“We have around 500 children in Dorset that are either missing in education or being home educated. Could I please ask exactly whether we are actively monitoring those receiving home education. I believe the council may make an informal enquiry to check a child is getting a suitable education, and can serve a school attendance order if it is believed the child should be taught at school. Can I ask please whether this process is firmly in place & how many informal enquiries we may make on an average monthly basis? And, in terms of those missing in education – do we have a number and any action in this respect?”

**Question 2 – submitted by Cllr Bill Pipe**

I would like to ask that Dorset Council recognise National Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in light of it being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz/Birkenau in 1945 and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrible Genocide in Bosnia in 1995?

**Question 3 – submitted by Cllr Beryl Ezzard**

**Reference: On-going Funding for Voluntary organizations and especially Citizens Advice**

“Will the Council ensure that on-going funding for the current Voluntary organisations, continue after this current year 2019/20? This is especially crucial for the Citizens Advice Organisations in the Dorset Council area. The Citizen Advice have always had a special partnership working arrangement with the District/Borough Councils who supported and appreciated their valuable work and dedication. This is very much appreciated by the families who receive help and support, especially the homeless and those in need. I cannot emphasize enough the extra mile the staff of the Citizen Advice go, to carry out their roles in conjunction with DCC and now DC staff. Please can you give assurance that the level of funding will continue to focus on early intervention now, to save costs down the line. I very much hope that a decision will be made as soon as possible, to give confidence to our Citizen Advice to carry on, with very valuable staff retention, especially regarding homelessness, as a serious partner working to support the vulnerable and needy citizens of the Dorset Council area.”

#### **Question 4 – submitted by Cllr Stella Jones**

##### **Dorset Council Plan**

“The draft Dorset Council plan has a strapline which says “Dorset is a great place to live, work, and visit”. And it is a great place.

However one reason it is so good is the cultural activity which makes a positive contribution to the Dorset economy.

Culture attracts tourists who appreciate our history and heritage, but has an even more significant effect on the health and wellbeing of residents.

The Council should support the passion and energy of many people who work and volunteer in our museums, arts centres, and attractions.

Yet in the plan there is no mention of the arts or museums and the word heritage only appears once.

I would like to ask that a new section is added to our plan – a cultural strategy

#### **Question 5 – submitted by Cllr Paul Kimber**

##### **Train services from Bournemouth to Weymouth and Weymouth to Bristol. SWR and GWR**

“The population in Dorset over the next 5 years is set to rise significantly in Littlemoor/Dorchester /Crossways putting more stress on our very busy transport infrastructure on roads and rail, therefore I'd like to ask these 2 questions to update our communities in Dorset.

1. The line between Bournemouth and Weymouth is single track in places namely outside Weymouth and Dorchester. Can I be assured that we are working to have this line doubled all the way from Bournemouth to Weymouth, and fully electrified.

Could I have an update on any work that is due to take place, and is this council lobbying all authorities to bring about a more efficient rail system.

#### **Question 6 – submitted by Cllr Paul Kimber**

2. The trains between Weymouth and Bristol are diesel powered. Can I be informed if there are any alternatives being worked upon regarding powering the engine on this line. “

#### **Question 7 – submitted by Cllr Louie O’Leary**

I would like to ask what the situation is with the North Quay development in Weymouth? Which is very important to Weymouth and has been stalled for several years?

### **Question 8 – submitted by Cllr Louie O’Leary**

I would like to ask what the situation is with the Western Relief Road in Weymouth? Which is very important to Weymouth and has been stalled for several years?

### **Question 9 – submitted by Cllr Nick Ireland**

“It has been brought to my attention last week by a concerned parent that there are children with complex and severe physical needs attending Mountjoy School, yet the school has no nurse or other suitably trained members of staff available to intervene if required.

There are three children at the school with gastrostomy buttons. If the button comes out of the stoma, there is a short period of time for it to be reinserted else an operation is required. The school has nobody trained or allowed to perform the reinsertion, and Mountjoy is essentially marooned in the centre of a void of healthcare provision. One child has been withdrawn from school until a solution is in place.

The school has at least six children with severe epilepsy. One child recently had a seizure on a school trip with no suitably qualified staff at hand. Another had a seizure at school and it took four hours for an ambulance with trained staff to arrive.

One has to question the efficacy of the care plans and risk assessments in place for these children.

The school has insufficient funding to enter into contracts with, or employ directly, those that could remedy the situation. Our own council has very recently committed to pay for training for some staff as an interim solution (to be hopefully recouped from Public Health).

However, the wider picture is that until adequate funding is provided on an ongoing basis, this entirely avoidable risk to our children will persist.

I therefore request that the Cabinet member with responsibility for this area escalates the issue to all relevant partners and reports back to the next Full Council as to how it has been permanently resolved.”

### **Question 10 – submitted by Cllr Nick Ireland**

“It was just over a year ago that the UN IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) warned that we as a species had just over a decade to limit global warming to 1.5°C, beyond which the world faces significantly worse risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

To meet this target requires urgent and unprecedented changes: in May this year, Dorset Council recognised this by joining with many other local authorities and organisations in declaring a climate emergency.

Since then, we've seen the establishment of a Climate Change EAP under Cllr Ray Bryan (which has met twice so far) and some signs are emerging that our officers are considering and incorporating carbon reduction strategies into their decision making.

However, "it is no longer enough to have some green policies. In a world where we must move to zero-carbon, every policy must be green".

Whilst Cllr Bryan has picked up the climate emergency baton with the enthusiasm and focus that those of us who've worked with him previously would expect, I am concerned that when combined with his Cabinet role, this council will not achieve what it must due to the scale and enormity of the task ahead.

As has been mentioned by many recently, we need Apollo moon-landing levels of ambition to make this work and that requires a different, higher echelon of commitment.

I ask that Dorset Council recognises this and commits to establishing a Cabinet role straddling all directorates, with the sole remit to address our organisation's move to net zero carbon."

**Question 11 – submitted by Cllr Brian Heatley**

"The Dorset Heaths are internationally important wildlife sites currently recognised under the European Union Habitats Directive. They lie in an area of many mineral sites identified in the proposed Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Mineral Sites Plan. If the United Kingdom leaves the European Union the UK may be free to adopt in due course less stringent standards of protection for these wildlife sites. In that event, will it be Dorset Council's policy so far as is legally possible to maintain the present level of protection against mineral extraction for these unique Dorset heaths?"