



REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL - 11 MARCH, 2010

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report requests the Council to note written questions which have been received in terms of Standing Order 10, together with answers thereto.

2 Background

- 2.1 Standing Order 10 provides for members to put a question to the Chair of the Council meeting, the Chair of any standing or special committee or the Chief Executive concerning any relevant or competent matter.
- 2.2 Following the recent changes made to Standing Orders, each question and answer thereto shall be printed and circulated with the agenda of the meeting.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 Six written questions have been validly lodged for this Council meeting. The questions and answers thereto are attached as an appendix to this report. The Council is requested to note these.

5 Area, Policy, Staffing, Financial and Sustainability Implications

- 5.1 There are no implications arising from the content of this report.

6 Consultations

- 6.1 Service Directors and Committee Chairs were consulted and comments received were taken account of when preparing answers to the questions.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 The Council is requested to note the written questions and answers thereto.**

Chief Executive

Report prepared by:- Alastair Nicol, Principal Committee Officer
4 March, 2010

APPENDIX A

(A) From Councillor Storr to the Leader of the Council:-

Q: Given that Aberdeenshire's capital funding is being cut even more severely than the City's and the likely cuts in revenue grant, what cuts in capital and revenue programmes will be necessary to fund the AWPR?

A: This matter is fully dealt with in the Director of Transportation and Infrastructure's report to Policy and Resources Committee of 4 March, 2010.

(B) From Councillor Storr to the Chair of Social Work and Housing:-

Q: With fuel prices set to rise year on year faster than overall inflation, in order to insure tenants against fuel poverty in the long term, what plans are there to make Aberdeenshire's Council Housing stock conform as nearly as practicable to PassivHaus or similar standards?

A: The Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) defines what constitutes acceptable good quality housing. All social housing has until 2015 to meet this standard. The Council's Standard Delivery Plan (SDP) was approved by the Scottish Government and sets out how the Council will meet, and in many cases exceed, the energy efficiency requirements of the SHQS.

(C) From Councillor Storr to the Chair of Infrastructure Services:-

Q: Given that the 3% rise in traffic on the A90 corridor north means a doubling of traffic every 25 years, what actions has the Chair of Infrastructure Services taken to ensure early investigations of options for the re-opening of rail lines to the north of Aberdeen and when did he take those actions?

A: The provision of rail services is a matter for central not local government.

(D) From Councillor Ford to the Chair of Education, Learning and Leisure:-

Q: When was the statement from Kate Campbell and John Summers of Keep Scotland Beautiful -

'The Eco-Schools Scotland programme is part of an international award programme to encourage schools to learn more about their environment and sustainability. It must involve pupils, teachers and the local community. There are three stages to the Eco-Schools Award programme, namely Bronze, Silver and ultimately the Green Flag Award itself. The first two stages, namely, Bronze and Silver, are done by self assessment and a written submission to the Eco-Schools Scotland team is required for a decision on the Green Flag Award. The Green Flag Award is awarded only after a visit by assessors from the Eco-Schools Scotland team to the relevant school.

Balmedie Primary School has reached the Bronze Award level, having complied with all the relevant Bronze level award criteria.

Future Awards, if applied for, will be awarded after suitable assessments in line with that for all schools in Scotland.

Decisions about the activities of pupils in school are the prerogative of the school and the relevant local authority.

As the school fully meets all the relevant criteria for its present level of award, its Bronze Award status will remain.'

received by the Council and when was it passed to the Director of Education, Learning and Leisure?

A: The statement was emailed to the Sustainability Officer in the Education Learning and Leisure Service on 3 February, 2010, and forwarded to the Director the same day.

(E) From Councillor Ford to the Chair of Education, Learning and Leisure:-

Q: Concerning the involvement of Balmedie School in the planting of marram grass on the Foveran Links Site of Special Scientific Interest, will the Council now retract and correct the statement made by the Director of Education, Learning and Leisure at the EL&L Committee on 4 February that 'the governing body of eco-schools disagree [with concerns that this is inappropriate]. They are very supportive of the involvement of the young people in what was quite clearly a legitimate outdoor learning activity for them'?

A: Both the Director and the Head Teacher of the School considered the planting of marram grass to be a legitimate learning activity for pupils. Keep Scotland Beautiful's position is clearly set out in the statement at question D.

(F) From Councillor Ford to the Chair of Education, Learning and Leisure:-

Q: Have the provisions of the Council's policy on commercial sponsorship, including a written agreement and controls on publicity, been applied to the relationship between Balmedie School and Trump International Golf Links, Scotland?

A: The policy on commercial sponsorship is not applicable.