

Agenda Item No: 12



Written Questions from Councillors

The following written questions have been received from Councillor Ient which he wishes to ask of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Smith (Question 1) and the Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling, Councillor Franklin (Question 2):

Question 1:

Coast to Capital, is the LEP for Brighton and Hove, Croydon, Gatwick 'Diamond', East Surrey, Lewes and West Sussex. I understand our representative on the board of the LEP is the Leader of the Lewes District Council. This being the case I think it is important that this Council receives a regular feedback on the initiatives, expenditure and proposals of this organisation, especially since it is a nonelected body, but at the same time is responsible for expending considerable amount of government and EU funds.

I believe LEP's outstrip local councils in their spending budgets, but seem not be subject to the same public scrutiny as county and district councils. They are multi-million pound bodies who seem to exclusively negotiate with the government and the EU on schemes for the local area without reference to democratically elected bodies. I would like to see this change as a first step. I think it is important for the Lewes District Council's representative on our local LEP to report back councillors on the expenditure programme and on proposals.

Please would be Leader of the Council report back on a regular basis to the Cabinet and the full Council on the programme of projects and proposals by the Coast to Capital LEP?

Question 2:

Over 9 months ago in, July 2015, the Cabinet accepted a recommendation to proceed and develop a new kerbside recycling and collection service such that there would be:

- a. Fortnightly refuse collection;
- b. Weekly recycling collection and food waste;
- d. Fortnightly opt-in green waste collection.

My recollection of the meeting was that my colleague Steve Saunders called for greater publicity and public consultation on the changes in services and I understand this was accepted.

Also that the Cabinet agreed to allocate up to £2.2m from General Fund Revenues to fund start-up costs associated with implementing the changes to the service. It appears from the latest copy of the district news that some of this £2m budget is already being spent on new vehicles. I am sure we all agree they are needed. However, apart from the extension of the trial garden refuse scheme in some coastal towns, it appears that be no further information on the implementation of the new kerbside and recycling services since July last year. Shortly after this meeting I was told by LDC officers that the new scheme was 2 years away. Presumably therefore the scheme is just over a year away from implementation? However the promised Waste and Recycling report has not yet surfaced. Presumably this report would formally reveal the new services and how they will work as well as the timescale.

When will the proposed new kerbside collection scheme come into operation across the district and how will the scheme will be implemented so that there is a smooth changeover from the current to the new scheme with the public being kept fully informed at all times?