

Meeting of the City Council

20 March 2024

Report title	Written Questions by Councillors	
Referring person	Councillor Wendy Dalton, Councillor Celia Hibbert, Councillor Harbinder Singh, Councillor Mary Bateman, Councillor Carol Hyatt, Councillor Wendy Thompson, Councillor Udey Singh, Councillor Simon Bennett, Councillor Paul Singh,	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Obaida Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Digital and Community Inclusion Councillor Craig Collingswood, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Councillor Stephen Simkins, Leader of the Council Councillor Steve Evans, Deputy Leader: City Housing Councillor Jasbir Jaspal, Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing Councillor Chris Burden, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Councillor Paula Brookfield, Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal, Cabinet Member for Visitor City	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
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Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

That the relevant Executive Members respond to the questions received in accordance with Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 30 minutes.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For the Cabinet Members to respond to the questions received:

a. Customer Service Access Points

Councillor Wendy Dalton to ask the Cabinet Member for Digital and Community Inclusion:

Can the Cabinet Member for Digital and Community Inclusion provide a list of Customer Service Access Points in the city?

b. Bin Collection Rule

Councillor Celia Hibbert to ask the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change:

On the 29th of January 2024, a “major rule” change was introduced, which is to reject recycling bins that are deemed contaminated - even in the slightest way.

In about two weeks of introducing this “major rule” change, roughly 12,276 bins were left uncollected on our streets.

Following this, countless number of residents have voiced their concerns, disappointment and many have been left confused. In fact, recycling bin days are now a cause for serious anxiety among well-meaning residents.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change has gone on record to claim that this new rule is working - he said, and I quote: “Our ‘Check before you chuck’ campaign has already made a big difference to recycling in Wolverhampton, with contamination rates falling from 24 per cent to 18 per cent.”

Now, I wonder where the Cabinet Member got his statistics from; because I for one, believe that in actual sense, it is the rate of the recycling bin collection that is falling rather than the contamination rates.

Therefore, can the Cabinet Member:

A) Please confirm what more is being done to improve the quality of our City’s recyclable waste, other than rejecting residents recycling bins on a whim.

B) Please confirm when he believes Wolverhampton will attain ZERO contamination rate - by extrapolating from the statistical data he has stated in the press.

c. Potholes

Councillor Harbinder Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change:

Can the Cabinet Member tell us how many potholes we have fixed in the last 12 months and how much funding we receive?

d. Green Belt

Councillor Mary Bateman to ask the Leader of the Council:

Can the Leader tell me is there any proposals for building on our precious Green Belt in Wolverhampton?

e. House Building

Councillor Carol Hyatt to ask the Deputy Leader: City Housing:

How many houses has the Council built in the last 12 months and how many are planned to be built over the next five years?

f. Bin Collection

Councillor Wendy Thompson to ask the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change:

Can the Cabinet Member reassure us that the Council have no plans to remove fortnightly bin collections and move to a less frequent collection service?

g. West Park

Councillor Wendy Thompson to ask the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing:

Following a second murder of a teenager taking place in West Park since 2018, can the Cabinet Member inform us of what security measures, if any, the Council is considering to improve safety for users of that public park?

h. Proposed Children's Home

Councillor Udey Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:

Can the Cabinet Member advise Council the total costs incurred so far in purchasing and renovating the proposed children's home at 11a Keepers Lane?

i. Four Day Working Week

Councillor Simon Bennett to ask the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities:

Can the Cabinet Member tell us if they've done any modelling or had any internal discussions on a four-day working week for Council staff, off the back of South Cambridgeshire District Council reporting such good results from their trial of the scheme?

j. Kabaddi World Cup

Councillor Paul Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for Visitor City:

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on preparations for the 2025 Kabaddi World Cup, which is taking place predominantly in Wolverhampton, and can they also confirm that all interested parties will be able to have their voices heard on what will be a great event for our city?