



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Please ask for

T 01752 305155

E

democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk

www.plymouth.gov.uk

Published 01 November 2022

MEMBERS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Members' Written Questions

- 1. Investment Zones: (Pages 3 - 4)**
- 2. Job Creation and Freeport Status: (Pages 5 - 6)**
- 3. Weed Schedules: (Pages 7 - 8)**
- 4. Bus Pass Holders: (Pages 9 - 10)**
- 5. Tendered Bus Services: (Pages 11 - 12)**
- 6. A38 Safety Measures: (Pages 13 - 14)**
- 7. Parks Lighting: (Pages 15 - 16)**
- 8. Devonport Library: (Pages 17 - 18)**
- 9. Rough Sleepers: (Pages 19 - 22)**
- 10. Dental Care: (Pages 23 - 26)**
- 11. Life Centre: (Pages 27 - 28)**
- 12. Plympton Library: (Pages 29 - 30)**
- 13. S106 Kings Tamerton Development at Coombe Way: (Pages 31 - 34)**

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: George Wheeler

Date received: 10/4/2022 7:08:27 PM

To the Cabinet Member for: Leader

Question: I understand Plymouth has been selected as one of the six proposed Investment Zones in the south west. Can you advise me of the planned boundaries of the Zone, please? I would be grateful if you could also tell me what freedoms from current legislation are envisaged in the proposal, please.

Answer:

Following recent discussions with colleagues at DLUHC, Plymouth City Council was delighted to be one of the first 38 authorities that was asked to submit an expression of interest (EoI) to establish an Investment Zone.

Over the last few years the Council has demonstrated that we can deliver new projects on a large scale, working with partners from a wide range of backgrounds and across a diversity of sectors. The Council is clear on its strategic aims and objectives for the city and the opportunity to establish an Investment Zone would accelerate the work that we are doing to provide new, high value jobs, deliver new homes and improve opportunities for all of our residents.

One of our applications relates to the Plymouth & South Devon Freeport. Plymouth and our Freeport local authority partners (Devon County Council and South Hams District Council) are not applying to amend the boundaries of the Freeport but welcome the opportunity to enhance the financial incentives available in the Freeport by obtaining Investment Zone status.

Establishing a new Investment Zone in Plymouth is an exciting opportunity which builds on our existing plans and will help to bring forward delivery. We are proposing to establish sites within these four areas of Plymouth:

- City Centre
- Union Street
- Millbay
- Cattewater

Regarding freedoms from legislation, the financial incentives under consideration are as follows:

Specified sites in England could benefit from a range of time-limited tax incentives over 10 years. The tax incentives under consideration are:

1. **Business Rates** – 100% relief from business rates on newly occupied business premises, and certain existing businesses where they expand in English Investment Zone tax sites. Councils hosting Investment Zones will receive 100% of the business rates growth in designated sites above an agreed baseline for 25 years.
2. **Enhanced Capital Allowance** – 100% first year allowance for companies' qualifying expenditure on plant and machinery assets for use in tax sites.
3. **Enhanced Structures and Buildings Allowance** – accelerated relief to allow businesses to reduce their taxable profits by 20% of the cost of qualifying non-residential investment per year, relieving 100% of their cost of investment over 5 years.
4. **Employer National Insurance contributions relief** – zero-rate Employer NICs on salaries of any new employee working in the tax site for at least 60% of their time, on earnings up to £50,270 per year, with Employer NICs being charged at the usual rate above this level.
5. **Stamp Duty Land Tax** – a full SDLT relief for land and buildings bought for use or development for commercial purposes, and for purchases of land or buildings for residential developers.

It is not yet known whether Investment Zones would lead to any freedoms from planning legislation as no guidance has been provided.

Signed:

Handwritten signature of Richard Bingley in black ink, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Date: 19 October 2022

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Councillor Mrs Terri Beer

Date received: 9/23/2022 4:04:12 PM

To the Cabinet Member for: Leader

Question: Can you tell me how many jobs have been created as a result of our Freeport Status and how many people have been employed?

Answer:

The Plymouth and South Devon Freeport has still to obtain HMG approval of its Full Business Case which form the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding ahead of seed capital be released – November/ December timeframe. Development and development related jobs will then commence. As businesses take on the new premises, we have forecast 3,584 jobs will be created in total.

Signed:

Date: 3rd October 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR

Question submitted by: Councillor Mark Coker

To Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene, Councillor Bill Wakeham

Question:

Can we have by ward a schedule of road sweeping and weed clearing schedules?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

We do not produce or maintain a ward by ward schedules for these activities.

Road Sweeping: The City is divided into North, South, East and West and operatives are given 12 weeks to cover their areas. They mark off on maps the areas they have completed.

Weed spraying: As previously advised we are using contractors to complete weed spraying and again they do this on a map based approach. The objective is to cover as much area as quickly as possible. We also have our own operatives working their way around the City Centre and Waterfront areas (Public Highway only) on a cyclical basis.

Weed removal: This is a reactive service and teams are currently deployed to tackle areas with the greatest challenge. We are now moving onto the Beacon Park area. Having completed the more worse areas in Keyham and Drake wards.

All work is very much subject to weather, crew availability, vehicle availability and other priorities. For example the clear up of a large number of unauthorised encampments this summer has meant resource has had to be pulled from the activities detailed above.

As part of the modernisation of Street Services the Alloy asset management and scheduling system is in the process of being rolled out across cleansing and grounds activities. In the future it is planned that all activities will be added to this digital system to move away from analogue paper based systems.

Signed:

Dated: 14th October 2022

OFFICIAL

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR

Question submitted by: Councillor Mark Coker

To Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor Jonathan Drean

Question:

How many concessionary pass holders are there in the city, broken down by category this year compared to 2019?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

Please see the table below:

Card Type	30/04/2019	30/04/2022	30/09/2022
Standard Senior	34,235	30,934	30,899
Senior 80+	13,070	13,821	14,202
Standard Disabled	4,733	3,727	3,891
Disabled Blind	245	241	253
Total	52,283	48,723	49,245

This data shows the number of passes, by type, that were in circulation when the data was extracted in April 2019 with the comparable period this year. A further data extract taken in September 2022 shows numbers slowly starting to increase.

Signed: Councillor Jonathan Drean

Dated: 07/10/2022

This page is intentionally left blank

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR**Question submitted by: Councillor Mark Coker****To Cabinet Member:** Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor Jonathan Drea**Question:**

Can you tell me what plans you have for tendered bus services in the city due to upcoming process of retendering and how many of our tendered services are under threat?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

Ten non-commercial routes have recently been re-tendered. Officers have put forward a number of options for potential contract award and these are currently being considered in line with the wider budget challenges the Council is facing. Officers have been creative in their recommendations, ensuring that all relevant S106 funding is utilised alongside the non-commercial routes budget to retain as much of the non-commercial routes network as possible.

However, it should also be noted that in April the Council stepped in to support four routes that had been operated on a commercial basis for many years, but where operators felt they were no longer viable following the reduction in government funding as we come out of the pandemic. Of these, three of the routes have now reverted to commercial operation, albeit with some alterations to routing and frequency. The remaining service has been included as one of the ten routes put out to tender.

A further new route serving Saltram Meadow was also included in the tender following the team successfully securing S106 developer contributions.

Signed: Councillor Jonathan Drea**Dated:** 07/10/2022

This page is intentionally left blank

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR

Question submitted by: Councillor Charlotte Holloway

To Cabinet Member: Councillor Jonathan Drear, Cabinet Member for Transport

Question:

Following the recent fatalities on the A38, can you outline what information the council logs on A38 safety incidents and what assessments have been made of the current safety measures?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

The A38 Parkway is maintained and administered by National Highways on behalf of the Department for Transport (Dft). Whilst Plymouth City Council is not the Highway Authority it does liaise with National Highways as an adjoining Highway Authority and receives casualty data from the Police for the A38 within the Plymouth Boundary as well as casualty figures for the Plymouth Highway Network. The official collision data for each year validated by the Dft is usually available by May/June of the following Year.

I have been in touch with National Highways recently seeking reassurance on both the level of collisions taking place on the A38 Parkway and asking what assessment of the safety of the route has been undertaken. National Highways have recently responded assuring me of their vigilance on this matter and also confirmed that analysis of the level of collisions and traffic volumes using the road indicates that the A38 Parkway is currently regarded as Low Risk when compared to other parts of the Strategic Road Network.

There are no formal meetings between National Highways and Plymouth City Council to discuss Road Safety. However, members of my Team regularly meet at the South West Accident Reduction Working Group attended by National Highways and both Officers and yourself as a Cabinet Member attend Vision Zero South West meetings where National Highways are also present as a Partner along with the Police, Blue Light Services and other Local Highway Authorities from within the Devon and Cornwall Police Area.

With regard to Fatal Collisions, the official designation cannot be confirmed until after a Coroner's Inquest, usually taking place over a year from the date of the collision. Fatalities judged to have been Suicide, Medical Episodes or as the result of Criminal Action are not recorded as Fatal Collisions on the Network. You will appreciate that there would be very little that any Highway Authority could do to intervene as a direct intervention in such cases.

Signed: Councillor Jonathan Drear

Dated: 10/10/2022

This page is intentionally left blank

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR

Question submitted by: Councillor Charlotte Holloway

To Cabinet Member: Councillor Bill Wakeham

Question:

To ask the Cabinet member, what plans are currently in place to improve lighting in the city's parks? Additionally, to ask what assessments have been made of parks where there are substantial areas in darkness, such as the Ford Park Road entrance to Central Park, where local residents have indicated they would like to see lighting in place ahead of darker night's drawing in?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

City's Park and Highway lighting allows for key routes to be walked through or alternatively around each Park. We do not have plans to light all footpaths as this would be detrimental to bats and other wildlife impact, wild life breeding and feeding habits can be affected by artificial lighting and we have a statutory duty to consider this.

In addition, increases of lighting arrangements can conflict with the council's carbon reduction policy.

Central Park is subject to a safety review and some lighting upgrades have been suggested within the Safer Street4 funding round, unfortunately, Ford Park Road entrance lighting has been discounted within this funding round, we constantly monitor the lighting arrangements across the city and seek to improve it's effectiveness. The lighting engineer is aware of this: request for review

Signed: Councillor Bill Wakeham

Dated: 17/10/2022

OFFICIAL

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR



Question submitted by: Councillor Coker

To Cabinet Member: Cllr Pat Patel, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question:

When can we expect Devonport library to return to normal opening hours, with the onset of winter people will require warm spaces to be able to use this, at present it is open on Mondays and Wednesdays can we have some commitment to open more hours?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

Opening hours

During a meeting with a St Aubyn church representative in February this year, one of the points of concern raised was about the opening hours at Devonport. At the time, the library opened on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 11am to 5pm. From mid-March the library Service was able to tweak the opening hours, adding a net increase of four hours, from then opening from 9am to 5pm on both days. Together with staffing across the 11-library estate, this is the maximum hours that the library can open with current resources.

The Library Service is currently investigating extending opening hours across all libraries through volunteer / community engagement.

Job Club

Also at the meeting in February, the church representative raised a concern about the Job Club at Devonport not being able to re-open on Wednesday mornings, as was the case prior to the pandemic. As we were able to extend the opening hours to include Wednesday mornings, this is no longer a concern for the church. The Job Club is run by Routeways, who see clients on the church's mezzanine floor in the library. They use their own laptops (which they didn't have before the pandemic), which means they don't use library PCs as they used to, although we still keep them available for the Job Club should the need arise.

Social café / Food club

The church representative raised in February that the library opening on Wednesday mornings would help Devonport Churches run a Devon Live Social Café, using the meeting room at that time. This, too, was achieved when opening hours were increased, and staff at the library reopened the kitchen for church staff to store and prepare food. From a Library Service point of view, although not involved directly in the initiative, the café / food club is operating successfully.

Rent / operating costs

Although the library is leased from the Exeter Diocese, the rent is just £1 per year, and charged or not at the discretion of the Bishop (in effect, no charge). The Council sub-lets (no charge) the mezzanine floor back to the Diocese for use by St Aubyn Church.

The operating costs to run Devonport Library include staffing costs, facilities management costs (including non-domestic rates, utilities, inspections and maintenance, and utilities), and other costs that include, for example, contributions to new library stock and the library van.



Signed:

Dated: 10th October 2022

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR



Question submitted by: Councillor Terri Beer

To Cabinet Member: Cllr Rebecca Smith, Cabinet Member for Homes and Communities

Question:

Can you explain your inability to ensure rough sleepers have a safe place to stay as I have noticed there are people camping out in tents at North Cross roundabout and on Citadel Road

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

Can you explain your inability to ensure rough sleepers have a safe place to stay as I have noticed there are people camping out in tents at north Cross roundabout and on Citadel Road

Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness in the City and there are increasing numbers of people rough sleeping.

We estimate that over 25 people are rough sleeping and the reasons for this are diverse.

- Relationship Breakdown
- Addiction
- Trauma
- Mental Health Challenges
- Financial Difficulties
- Leaving institutions, care, prison, hospital

A holistic, multi-agency response is in place to support people away from the streets into safe, often supported accommodation:

Path, BCHA, Hamoaze House, Shekinah, Livewell, Salvation Army and PCC through the Plymouth Alliance, work closely with people who are rough sleeping in a co-ordinated way, to develop bespoke plans around housing and other related needs.

However, it is also worth noting the at the North Cross Roundabout and Citadel Road locations, there are individuals and couples rough sleeping with:

- No recourse to public funds, for example, waiting for their settled status. There is minimal housing they can access.
- Dogs and very few housing providers, hotels and B&B's will house dog owners who are homeless.
- A history of being evicted from housing services as a result of challenging behaviour often caused by trauma, mental health challenges, and addiction.

Plymouth Night Shelter funded through the Government's Rough Sleeper Initiative opened its doors to 12 individuals rough sleeping on the 1st October 2022.

In the last 3 weeks 25 people seen sleeping rough have been supported away from the streets and into temporary accommodation.

Week ending 16/09	8 people
Week ending 23/09	10 people
Week ending 30/09	8 people

Our aim is that rough sleeping individuals are only rarely, and briefly rough sleeping and we do all we can to ensure this is non-recurring.

Signed:



Dated: 10th October 2022

OFFICIAL

This page is intentionally left blank

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR



Question submitted by: Councillor Charlotte Holloway

To Cabinet Member: Cllr Dr John Mahony, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Question:

To ask the member for Health, what the official advice is for Plymouth residents who are unable to get on the NHS waiting lists for dental care and require dental attention?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

Devon and Cornwall Dental Helpline

A unique dedicated helpline was developed for Devon and Cornwall to:

- assist patients in finding an NHS dentist for routine care
- arrange urgent NHS dental treatment for people who do not have a dentist
- help commissioners identify and respond to variations in demand

Practices are encouraged to point prospective new patients towards the helpline, so they can be added to a central list of people looking for a regular dental practice rather than being taken on directly. As a result, people are sometimes incorrectly under the impression that no practices are taking on new NHS patients. Instead, patients are allocated in batches as capacity becomes available, so those who have waited longest are prioritised. People who are prepared to travel further are likely to be found a place sooner than those who are not.

For those looking for dental care there are a number of options;

Urgent dental care

Plymouth Community Dental Service provides and manages in-hours appointments for patients with an urgent dental need who do not have access to an NHS dentist for patients in Plymouth. Torbay Community Dental Service offer the same service for patients in the Torbay area and the Dental Helpline manages the booking of appointments which are provided in practices throughout the rest of Devon. This service is for patients in need of relief from acute dental pain; acute infection; and bleeding or trauma.

Access to urgent dental care would normally be expected to be available within 24 hours of someone making contact with the service. Appointments are provided at a range of sites across Devon.

Only those people with a significant dental emergency, such as rapid facial swelling, uncontrolled bleeding or facial trauma, would be expected to be treated at accident and emergency departments.

The Dental Helpline also manages out of hours appointments for the whole of Devon. They provide appointments at the weekends and Bank Holidays in clinics across the county.

The South West dental commissioning team have recently launched an initiative to increase the number of urgent care treatment slots by asking practices to provide additional urgent care sessions. Three practices in Devon have been involved in providing urgent care sessions since December 2020.

Urgent Care provided by Community Dental services

Community dental providers, including Plymouth Community Dental Service (Livewell), Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, Torbay Community Dental Service (South Devon and Torbay NHS Foundation Trust), offer some urgent care appointments, to support those who contact the Dental Helplines with urgent care needs to ensure that patients with urgent dental needs are able to be seen and treated.

Additional routine dental care for those who do not have an NHS dentist by foundation dentists

The Peninsula Dental School's education facilities in Plymouth and Exeter also provide one-off courses of treatment to patients who do not have an NHS dentist. Patients can access care by contacting the Dental School directly where they will be assessed as suitable to be treated by dental students under supervision.

Stabilisation dental care for those who don't meet the criteria for urgent dental care and do not have a regular dentist

A new dental offer will be put in place starting this winter in the South West called stabilisation dental care. This is for those who have had urgent dental care treatment but who still have additional dental problems that need addressing.

Patients accessing care via NHS 111 (or a dedicated local dental helpline) and who do not meet the urgent care criteria would instead be offered a stabilisation appointment for the following reasons:

- Mild or moderate pain that is not associated with an urgent care condition and responds to pain relief measures.
- Loose, broken or displaced crowns, bridges or veneers.
- Broken, lost or ill-fitting dentures.
- Broken or loose fillings.

This is particularly aimed at those patients who do not have a regular dental practice. The new service will be monitored and evaluated to ensure it is reaching those in most need.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Q. King'.

Dated: 11 October 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR



Question submitted by: Councillor Ian Poyser

To Cabinet Member: Cllr Pat Patel, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question:

Dear Cllr Patel, One of my constituents has asked me to look into a matter regarding the Life Centre. I have been informed by a resident that there is an ongoing issue with Air Conditioning at the Bowling Hall which is leading to some public health concerns, specifically the risk of COVID19 infection. I'm lead to believe that the issue has been ongoing for almost 2 years. With rising COVID19 levels during winter months, the repair of this equipment should be a priority now that indoor bowling has now recommenced. Please can you kindly ask officers for a update on this issue and provide me with a plan of action and date by which this will be resolved so I can update the resident. Thank you for your time. Kind regards Cllr Ian Poyser

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

The air handling unit at the Life Centre covers the whole building, not just the bowls hall and has retro-fitted Ionisation. This means that it is effective in reducing harmful pollutants and odours by introducing positive and negative ions into the system's airflow which is then delivered to the space. (Bi-polar Ionisation has been proven to reduce coronavirus by 99%). The air handling unit is working in delivering fresh air and extracting the air in the facility, what it can't do, at present, is cool the air below the external temperature.

The chiller unit that supplies cold water to reduce the air temperature is faulty and has been for some time. This has been invested by several contractors and remedial works have been identified and planned. However, we are currently experiencing a delay due to the availability of parts.

As you are probably aware, over the summer months we installed a number of temporary fans around the building to help keep the facility cooler, now that the outside air temperatures have fallen there isn't a demand to cool these areas but rather to heat these areas which the site can do.

Also for your information, the Council has recently up graded the building management system (BMS) that will allow closer monitoring of temperatures. This piece of work is nearly completed and will help to achieve optimal and consistent temperatures throughout the building.

In summary, I would like to reassure you that there isn't a public health concern and that Plymouth Active Leisure are doing everything they can to get the chiller unit and air handling unit fully operational again.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. K. I.', written over a horizontal line.

Dated: 14 October 2022

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR

Question submitted by: Councillor Ian Poyser

To Cabinet Member: Cllr Pat Patel, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question:


Dear Cllr Patel, Thank you for promptly answering my previous question about public consultation on the future of Plympton library services. A journey I hope we don't been to embark upon. On a recent visit to Plympton Library I was shocked to discover that the meeting room at the library was still 'closed' to the public due to COVID19 risk and the lack of ventilation. All other council library meeting rooms in the city are currently open and available for community & business use. Keeping the public and staff safe while using the library should be paramount, however, it seems like such a disappointment to leave this space unused especially as community space is an absolute premium in the local area. From what library management have told me, the room was well frequented by many user groups and businesses before the pandemic started. The room has professional media and kitchenette facilities. Given that we Cllrs and council teams are all being encouraged to look at revenue generating opportunities as well as cost saving measures, it would seem sensible to reopen this space and raise an income to offset library operational costs. It would be useful to understand, if the COVID19 risk to public health has changed since the original decision to close the room and/or what costs are required to install suitable ventilation. A number of simple low cost fixes have been discussed. Should there be no available S106 money to undertake this work, any council investment would need to be backed up with a realistic business case to recover CapEx costs. The library will have historical room booking that could be used to estimate the potential income should the room be reopened. Please could I kindly ask that this matter be reviewed again, so we the room can be reopened for community use? Thank you for your time. Kind regards Cllr Ian Poyser

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

Thank you for your question about the meeting room at Plympton Library, which as you know was unavailable during the Covid pandemic.

The Library Service reopened for normal business in line with the government's four-step road map to recovery, and now operates in effect as it did prior to the pandemic. However, the Library Service, following advice and guidance from Health and Safety and Facilities Management colleagues, is unable to re-open the meeting room at Plympton as there is no natural airflow in the room. Without natural airflow, there is an increased possibility of transmission of Covid and other viruses, and this will be exacerbated as Covid cases increase (as they are now) as we move into winter

The Library Service is working with those same H&S and FM colleagues to seek a solution. We are, for example, monitoring CO2 and also engaging with independent ventilation specialists. It is in the Library Services' (and therefore the Council's) best interest, and also to the benefit of customers, to have the meeting room open as soon as possible, and this we are working hard to achieve.

Signed: 

Dated: 21 October 2022

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR

Question submitted by: Councillor Wheeler

To Cabinet Member: Councillor Richard Bingley (Leader of Plymouth City Council)

Question:

My question is about the S106 requirement from the proposed development at Kings Tamerton, off Coombe Way. I'm not sure which Cabinet member is responsible for this aspect of Council service so could I ask you to re-allocate it if necessary, please? The outline planning application, 21/01038/OUT, was granted with conditions in December 2021, subject to the S106 agreement. The latter was signed on 8th July 2022 but was posted on the web-site some time later. I have now had an opportunity to read it and I am concerned about a number of aspects. I have six questions about the process by which this S106 requirement was drawn up and its content. I could ask six separate questions but it seems more straightforward to combine them in the one Council question. Would you let me know if I should submit them separately, please? 1) Process. 1.1) The Council used to have a policy whereby ward councillors were involved with formulating the S106 requirements. Were any ward councillors consulted over this S106 and if so, who, please? 1.2) If there was no consultation, when did the former policy change? 2) Content. 2.1) The planning obligation in 4.1.1 provides for phased payments, the second of which states: (ii) £39,225 either on Occupation of the 15th dwelling within Phase 2; or within 5 years of Commencement of Phase 1 (whichever is the earlier). The grant of planning permission envisages the possibility that Phase 2 may not go ahead. Can you confirm that the second payment will be required if Phase 2 does not go ahead, please? 2.2) The planning obligation in 4.1.2 provides similar phased payments as in 4.1.1. Can you confirm that this second payment will also be required if Phase 2 does not go ahead, please? 2.3) The planning obligation in 4.1.3 provides for a contribution towards public health. This is to be spent at the Health and Well-being Hub at the Jan Cutting Centre which is nearly 2 miles from the application site. The increased pressure from future residents living at the application site is far more likely to fall upon the St Budeaux Health and Well-being Hub at the William Sutton Hall about ½ mile away. Can you tell me why the funding is not directed to the local well-being hub instead of to one serving another area, please? 2.4) The phasing of the planning obligation in 4.1.3 provides for similar phased payments as in 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. However the second payment is due on the first occupation of Phase 2. Can you tell me whether this payment will be required if Phase 2 does not go ahead, please?

Response:

Process. 1.1) The Council used to have a policy whereby ward councillors were involved with formulating the S106 requirements. Were any ward councillors consulted over this S106 and if so, who, please?

1.2) If there was no consultation, when did the former policy change?

The Case Officer that dealt with this planning application has now left the authority, however I do not believe there was ward Councillor involvement in formulating the S106 requirements, the case officer followed current protocol which involves consulting service leads and attending an internal Strategic Development Panel with managers from SP&I to determine where the priorities for spending are. I can find no records of a formal procedure for consulting ward Councillors and therefore am unsure when this ceased.

2) Content. 2.1) The planning obligation in 4.1.1 provides for phased payments, the second of which states: (ii) £39,225 either on Occupation of the 15th dwelling within Phase 2; or within 5 years of Commencement of Phase 1 (whichever is the earlier). The grant of planning permission envisages the possibility that Phase 2 may not go ahead. Can you confirm that the second payment will be required if Phase 2 does not go ahead, please?

The second payment will still be required if Phase 2 doesn't go ahead, it would be required within 5 years of commencement of Phase 1.

2.2) The planning obligation in 4.1.2 provides similar phased payments as in 4.1.1. Can you confirm that this second payment will also be required if Phase 2 does not go ahead, please?

The second payment will still be required if Phase 2 doesn't go ahead, it would be required within 5 years of commencement of Phase 1.

2.3) The planning obligation in 4.1.3 provides for a contribution towards public health. This is to be spent at the Health and Well-being Hub at the Jan Cutting Centre which is nearly 2 miles from the application site. The increased pressure from future residents living at the application site is far more likely to fall upon the St Budeaux Health and Well-being Hub at the William Sutton Hall about ½ mile away. Can you tell me why the funding is not directed to the local well-being hub instead of to one serving another area, please?

The decision where to spend the public health contribution was as a result of advice from the Council's Public Health Department who suggested the Health and Well-being Hub at the Jan Cutting Centre, this was in line with the approved Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document (the SPD) which included the Developer Contributions Evidence Base dated June 2020 (the Evidence Base) as a companion document.

The Evidence Base sets out that the preferred approach for the use of developer contributions is to invest in the city's network of Wellbeing Hubs. Wellbeing Hubs enable more people to be healthy and stay healthy by enhancing self-care and community resilience, empowering communities to take active roles in their health and wellbeing. This is consistent with the Devon STP strategic priority to enhance self-care and community resilience. Wellbeing Hubs will contribute to the improved resilience of existing primary care services.

2.4) The phasing of the planning obligation in 4.1.3 provides for similar phased payments as in 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. However the second payment is due on the first occupation of Phase 2. Can you tell me whether this payment will be required if Phase 2 does not go ahead, please? The second payment is only required upon first occupation of Phase 2 and therefore will not be required if Phase 2 does not go ahead.

Signed:

Richard Bingley

Dated: 19 October 2022

This page is intentionally left blank