

Members Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 12

From Councillor Keith Sunderland:

(1) Could I ask the following question of either the Leader or Resources.

"Last year there was a fund set aside for people who had difficulty paying Council Tax when they were previously exempt. I understand that £40,000 was needed to help out.

Whilst I appreciate that some situations will have changed and the help will no longer be needed I am already getting calls from people whose situation has not changed worried that they will not be able to manage without it.

In the future Universal credit might make the difference that is needed to help in these situations,

However for next financial year **could you please confirm that this help will still be available** as there is presumably £40,000 left from the original £80,000 that was set aside."

From Councillor Charles James

(2) Question for the Executive Member for the Environment.

In the Revenue Budget Summary Statement 2015/16 - 2020/21– there is an item under **Committed Growth** for “**Additional maintenance costs associated with Splashpoint Swimming Pool**” *amounting to £60,000 a year and for the next 5 years – totalling £300,000.*

I understand from answers provided at the last JOSC meeting, by Officers, this is because of a mechanical failure which needs rectifying.

Could the Cabinet Member give a more detailed answer as to why this has occurred? in what is a new building, and why is it that local taxpayers are picking up the bill, and not the contractors?

(3) Question for the Leader

There is a considerable amount of refurbishment taking place inside the Town Hall, I presume motivated by the new initiative to open up the Town Hall for Weddings, and Civil Ceremonies, which is to be applauded.

Has consideration been given to the small green areas around the exterior of the Town Hall, to make them more attractive, and to further enhance the overall experience and appeal, to potential users of the Town Hall?

I understand from the JOSC meeting of the 26 November, that no specific budget has been allocated for these areas, could that be considered in conjunction with the Town Hall refurbishment?