

Follow Up Questions from Overview & Scrutiny 8 December 2022

Agenda Item 5

Q2 2022/23 Performance Report

Question 1 – Planning Permission - Can data be provided on the number of projects where planning permission has been granted but where work has not yet commenced.

Written Answer

Currently, there are 198 planning permissions for residential housing on sites that, to the best of our knowledge, have not yet commenced construction. These exclude planning permissions that have expired and planning permissions which have been substituted with alternative permission. These 198 permissions have the potential to provide 632 net additional homes (718 gross).

Question 2 - Food Waste - It had been reported that more food waste was thrown away than was collected in the Borough and that approximately 6,000 properties did not have a food waste bin. Members asked whether the level of food waste recycling was due to lack of participation by those homes where a bin is provided and asked for data on this.

Written Answer

The Borough comprises of 62,000 residential properties. Of these 56,000 have access to kerbside food waste collections. Food waste is collected weekly as a separate waste stream and is typically presented in a 23l food caddy.

In 2021/22 around 4,900 tonnes of food waste was collected. However, we know that the rate of participation (residents regularly presenting caddies for collection) is relatively low, at around 45% to 50%.

Composition analysis undertaken with Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP) suggests that around 35% of waste presented in the residual bin comprises of food waste that could be recycled.

It is therefore reasonable to assume that if all residents engaged with the food waste service another 5,000t of waste could be recycled, significantly increasing the recycling rate.

There are number of variables and the cost of living increase may well see the amount of food waste presented for disposal reduce.

SEP continue to campaign to encourage residents to make use of the kerbside food waste service.

At the same time Reigate & Banstead Borough Council continue with the implementation of services to as many of the remaining 6,000 properties yet to receive kerbside food waste collections as possible.

Question 3 - Emergency Accommodation – The written response to advance question 7 provided a range of costs for bed and breakfast accommodation; Members requested confirmation of the average cost per night of this type of accommodation.

Written Answer

The minimum is £35 per night and current maximum £92 per night; therefore the average nightly rate is £64 per night. Note that the number of placements made throughout the price range changes nightly.

Question 4 - Refugee Grants – Members requested analysis of the grants for Syrian and Afghan refugees and associated expenditure.

Written Answer

Officers are currently working on a response to this question.

Question 5 - CCTV – Members asked for an explanation of why the information in the Capital Budget Monitoring for CCTV was the same as the information for Community Partnerships.

Written Answer

The schedule at page 67 to the report includes two adjacent rows relating to Community Partnerships Capital schemes:

- The first row sets out the budget forecasts at Quarter 2 relating to the approved capital programme for investment in CCTV facilities;
- The row immediately following sets out the total for all of Community Partnerships Service capital schemes;

As the service has a single capital scheme relating to CCTV, the figures in this total row are exactly the same as the figures in the row preceding it.

Agenda Item 6

Commercial Strategy Progress Update

Question 6 - Commercial Assets – Page 56 of the report states that three projects have been successfully concluded, Members asked for the details of the capital budget outturn for the projects.

Written Answer

Although the builds have completed on site, final accounts have not been completed for any of the three projects as the final retention payments have not been agreed yet.

Question 7 – Commercial Assets - Members further asked for a “lessons learnt” report following completion of the projects at Cromwell Road and Pitwood Park.

Written Answer

The request from members will be considered, more information will be provided in due course.

Question 8 - Asset (Re-)Development – Members commented that the costs and potential revenue income from The Rise and Cromwell Road were included in the report but were not broken down by property. Members requested a breakdown by property of funding, construction costs and net rental income to ascertain the return on investment for each asset.

Written Answer

The forecast Revenue Budget income in 2024/25 onwards from the Rise and Wheatley Court (Cromwell Road), as shown in the latest MTFP forecasts, remain indicative figures pending (i) completion of lease negotiations that are currently in progress and (ii) confirmation of any operating costs to be funded by the Council when the Property Team take on management responsibilities for the assets.

The forecast will be updated in the next MTFP refresh in July 2023 and in the Draft Budget Report in November 2023 when further information should be available.

Question 9 - Revenues and Benefits – Members asked for an update on Revenues and Benefits trading Activities. A written answer would be provided setting out the income received, costs incurred and contribution to overheads.(Exempt)

Written Answer

The response to this question contains confidential information. The response has been shared with members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Item 9

Companies Performance Update - Winter 2022

Question 10 - Greensand Holdings Ltd – Members asked for the valuation of land to be shared. (Exempt).

Written Answer

The response to this question contains confidential information. The response has been shared with members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Question 11 - Playing Field Strategy – Members asked for an update on this Strategy.

Written Answer

The document will be titled the Playing Pitch and Active Leisure Facilities Study and is being finalised by our consultants. It is not therefore a strategy but rather an evidence-based needs assessment looking at current and future need through to 2041. It broadly follows the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy methodology, but this has been extended to include other active recreation facilities.

Extensive engagement has been undertaken with Sports England, the national sports bodies, local clubs, landowners including schools and the sports federation. Officers from Planning, Place Shaping, Green Spaces and Leisure Services have been steering the work programme. Summer and winter surveys have been undertaken of the playing pitches to assess their condition and use. The other active recreation facilities including outdoor gyms, cycle tracks, etc were surveyed once.

The Facilities part of the study is currently being formatted whilst the Playing Pitch element is undergoing final discussions with Sport England. Overall, conditions of the facilities in the borough are good and much of the need can be met with only a few exceptions.

One of the challenges going forward is that there is a short and medium term need for some pitches but with an ageing population, demand will fall back in the latter part of the planning period.

We anticipate that the study will be completed in early 2023 and will be used to inform policies, such as the next local plan, strategies such as the Leisure and Cultural Strategy and future investment decisions, including the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

Question 12 - Asset Management Plan – Members asked whether it would be possible to provide a map of Council assets (Exempt).

Written Answer

The response to this question contains confidential information. The response has been shared with members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.