

COUNCIL 18 October 2023

Item 15 – Questions: Written Responses

2 Cllr L Anderson

Written Response

In 2021/22 the Council spent approximately £33,500 on printing and posting agendas and approximately £32,000 in 22/23. All the paper used is PFC certified and is recyclable and sourced from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources. All agendas are printed on A3 paper, cut to size and double sided. In 2021/22 approximately 109,210 sheets (219 packs of paper) were used and in 2022/23 94,583 sheets (190 packs of paper).

5 Cllr K Parkinson

Written Response

On the 12th and 15th of December 2022 the service area hosted two mini tutorial sessions for members to outline a new approach to members funding and to detail how the members funding is operated. In addition to this, further details were provided at the Highway Service Induction event held in May 2023 following the local elections.

The new approach to member funding has seen 66 of the 82 members engage with their Senior Highways Officers in the previous 12 months.

To help further engagement, we will circulate the tutorial and FAQ guidance document to help clarify the process.

Should any member wish to discuss their member budget, we would ask they contact their local Senior Highways Officer.

Should you require clarification of who your local Senior Highways Officer is, please contact:

membersfunding@cheshireeasthighways.org

Specific Points Raised by Cllr Parkinson

- a) **What works are deemed permissible for a ward member to commission.**

Ward budgets can be spent on a wide variety of highway and transport areas. It includes but is not limited to the following:

- Siding out (ensuring footpaths and carriageways are free of vegetation and soil ingress)
- Carriageway or footway repairs
- Road Markings

- Signs
- Dropped crossings
- Feasibility studies / design work to support larger projects

b) The current prices of such works

Projects are priced on an individual basis as no two requests are ever the same. Complex requests such as double yellow lines and traffic calming require a consultation, design and legal approval prior to positive measures being priced as part of the project. Cost estimates for all work must have members approval before work is programmed for delivery.

c) Provide members with an up-to-date account of their individual budgets spent together with the balance of monies available for future works

An up-to-date balance of all member funding will be provided up to the end of Q2 (end of Sept). This will be circulated by 17/11/23.

Pickmere Issue

Last week Cllr Browne had the opportunity to meet with the principal contractor and escalated your concerns in relation to Pickmere and lack of progress with a potential TRO, funded via your Ward Budget. The contractor has given assurance that an officer will be in touch to discuss this with you over the course of the next few days. If this does not happen, please let me know and I will chase them on your behalf.

7 Cllr M Beanland

Written Response

The timetable of deadlines to rectify the issues associated with the audit of section 106 procedures are clearly understood as is the need for these to be addressed quickly. If there is any need for deviation from the current timetable, then these will be clearly documented, agreed with Internal Audit and explained through the Member Working Group and Committees.

8 Cllr H Whitaker

Written Response

The legal advice is that the consultation process follows a statutory procedure which is set out within the The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996

Regulation 8 sets the conditions for a valid objection to be made:

“(a) be made in writing;

- (b) state the grounds on which it is made; and
- (c) be sent to the address specified in the notice of proposals”

The notice specifies a postal address and an email address to which objections or representations must be sent, an online form based approach would not meet the requirements of the regulations. The consultation documents are available on the Council’s website:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/car-parks-and-parking/reviews_and_consultations/reviews_and_consultations.aspx) and the notices for the current off-street parking and on-street parking consultations contain the email address as a clickable link which will automatically load in the users email client.

If the council were to depart from this approach, including by seeking to capture representations through use of a structured questionnaire, our consultation results could be open to challenge. Any change at this stage of the statutory consultation, with only 2 weeks remaining, would likely invalidate the entire consultation and delay a decision on outcome.

9 Cllr P Redstone

Written Response

The charge covers the collection costs for the Garden Waste Service. The Authority has chosen to introduce the charge on existing bi- weekly collection frequencies to minimise disruption to collection rounds and customer collection days. This also ensures the service has been able to be introduced in a timely manner to meet the agreed MTFS budget requirements. We are unable to offer a varied collection frequency service to different households, such as a monthly option, due to the complexity this would add to the service collection administration. The vehicles travel a set route to ensure efficiency of the whole collection round, passing properties irrespective of how frequently the bin is presented.