Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions at Council – 3 March 2015

1. Councillor M H Jones

Question

The written response refers to an annual servicing programme for mechanical and electrical installations. What is in place for general maintenance i.e. wear and tear such as painting?

Response of the Leader

Further to the response provided at Council on the 3 March, I can confirm that for non-school assets, general building maintenance is undertaken on a prioritised basis in relation to statutory compliance, Health & Safety requirements and business continuity. There is no programme of non essential planned maintenance such as painting & decoration given the limited budgets available. In relation to schools, all maintenance monies are devolved, in line with legislation and therefore schools and their governing bodies make the decisions as to any works carried out.

2. Councillor E W Fitzgerald

I have been informed that it is unlawful to cycle on a pavement; why then is the Council spending money to drop the kerbs for the use of cyclists?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation

The dropped kerbs Councillor Fitzgerald is referring are located adjacent to M4 Jn47. The Councillor is quite correct that these footways are not currently designated as shared use paths (which is what would be required to permit cycling on them. The route from Penllergaer to Morriston along the A48 is regularly used by a number of cyclists during the peak hours and it is therefore considered desirable for the route to be formalised with the necessary infrastructure in the long term as funding opportunities allow.

The recent installation of drop kerbs around Jn47 were funded from Council funds for cycle improvements, and complemented a signage scheme installed across the City & County of Swansea to improve wayfinding for cyclists.

The dropped kerbs are intended only to offer a means for cyclists to cross Jn47 by walking their bicycles, which was not previously possible.

The benefit of dropped kerbs are universal to both pedestrians and cyclists, and it was considered that due to the proximity of these junctions to Penllergaer Primary, this would be a worthwhile investment for the benefit of those using these footways, including mothers with pushchairs and those with mobility aids.