

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions at Council  
28 January 2016**

1.	<p><b>Councillor I M Richard</b> Councillor I M Richard asked for the number of Council Houses with coal fires.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services</b> Currently, there are 135 council houses with coal fires out of a total stock of 13,493. In the past, conversion to alternative fuel systems has been undertaken on request. This will be more structured in future as the conversion work will be an option for the tenant (if they currently have coal fires) as part of the kitchen and bathroom improvement programme.</p> <p>A breakdown of the number of coal fires across the various house types is as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="331 792 1075 981"> <tr> <td>Houses</td> <td align="right">110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flats (including maisonettes and bedsits)</td> <td align="right">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bungalows</td> <td align="right">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td align="right"><u>135</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>You subsequently asked about a breakdown of the total Council housing stock which is as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="331 1126 1171 1314"> <tr> <td>Houses</td> <td align="right">8,370</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flats (including maisonettes and bedsits)</td> <td align="right">4,532</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bungalows</td> <td align="right">591</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td align="right"><u>13, 493</u></td> </tr> </table>	Houses	110	Flats (including maisonettes and bedsits)	22	Bungalows	3	<b>Total</b>	<u>135</u>	Houses	8,370	Flats (including maisonettes and bedsits)	4,532	Bungalows	591	<b>Total</b>	<u>13, 493</u>
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2.	<p><b>Councillor E W Fitzgerald</b> Page 120 - What is the percentage increase in burial and cremation fees?</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b> The percentage increase in fees for Burials and Cremations was agreed last year for a 5% increase over 3 successive financial years to be implemented in 2015/16; 2016/17 and 2017/18. The phased approach was adopted in order to minimise the risk of creating financial hardship for bereaved members of the public.</p>																
3.	<p><b>Councillor A M Day</b> Pages 150-153. Will the Leader of the Council circulate his response to the School Budget Forum.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b> See attached letter.</p>																
4.	<p><b>Councillor P M Black</b></p> <p>a)Do we have any investments in Non AAA or Non AA institutions? If so how much and what percentage of total investments.</p> <p>b)Do we have any investments in Non UK institutions? If so how much and</p>																

	<p>what percentage of total.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>a) AAA and AA ratings are applicable to the long term standing of a financial institution and are considered when making a long term (&gt;365 days in duration) investment. The whole of the current portfolio is short term i.e &lt; 365 days in duration, (noting our investment/borrowing position highlighted within the report).</p> <p>The applicable ratings are therefore the short term ratings (included as a glossary at Appendix D of the above report) where the highest rating is F1. The whole of the current portfolio is rated F1.</p> <p>b) We do not have any investments in any non UK based Institutions.</p>
5.	<p><b>Councillor P N May</b></p> <p>What action is being taken by the Authority to disable the water tap at the Recreation Ground in order to prevent future unauthorised use.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development and Regeneration</b></p> <p>The mains water supply at the Recreation Ground is a shared supply which services both the standpipes and also supplies water for staff working in the office/portacabin within the car park. It is being investigated whether it is feasible to isolate the supply without stopping supply for staff working on site, a requirement under the Health and Safety at Work Act.</p> <p>The standpipe taps are housed within a pad-locked metal casing, so are therefore secured from non-permitted uses/users. The taps are used each year for events to the area for visiting attractions such as the Circus/fairground and the casing is unlocked for the permitted event operators by Council staff. The Council have requested for a quotation to install an additional shroud over the locking mechanism to prevent the padlock from being removed with a bolt croppers. Similar work was done to further improve the overall security the barriers leading onto the grassed areas, which should prevent unauthorised access onto the grass altogether.</p>
6.	<p><b>Councillor J W Jones</b></p> <p>Where are the exact locations referred to by the Cabinet Member in his response when he refers to the 4.8% of principal (A) roads, non principal (B) roads and non principal (C) roads that are in overall poor condition.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport</b></p> <p>These percentages do not relate to whole roads or streets. An assessment is carried out by a vehicle that scans the road surface looking for specific type of deterioration/ defect for example undulation. Every 10m section of a road will have an assessed condition rating and the totals are then summarised to give the percentages.</p> <p>It is therefore not possible to give a meaningful list of streets.</p> <p>An example plan is given above – this covers the Mansel Street area, with red marks on the road showing poor quality.</p>

7.

**Councillor A M Day**

What action is being taken by the Authority to progress the open cases of claims relating to injuries.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

Personal injury claims are currently received via the Ministry of Justice claims portal, and timescales vary within the portal depending on liability being admitted or not.

When liability is admitted, various steps are followed within the portal to meet appropriate timescales to ensure prompt closure of claims.

When claims are denied, the claimant has up to 3 years from the date of incident to issue formal proceedings through the courts. Timescales will then be issued by the courts as to negotiation between the various parties, and if no agreement reached, as to when the court will make judgement on the claim.