

APPENDIX B

1 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN WHITELEGG TO COUNCILLOR ABBOTT BRYNING

By way of background to the following 3 questions, Councillor John Whitelegg advised that the LDF Strategy contained a statement in support of the Bypass road although the Council's policy is not to support it.

What was the date when the Secretary of State approved the final version of the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy?

Councillor Bryning responded that the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the soundness of the Core Strategy submitted his report to the Council on 10th June 2008. There was no requirement (or indeed mechanism) for the Secretary of State to "approve" the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy was adopted by the Council on 23rd July 2008.

2 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN WHITELEGG TO COUNCILLOR ABBOTT BRYNING

On what date did Lancaster City Council inform the Planning inspectorate and LDF Core Strategy Inspector of the policy agreed on 20th June 2007?

Councillor Bryning replied: 'The Council resolution of 20th June 2007 post-dated the end of the "Deposit" period for the Core Strategy. Representations from the public and the Council's response to these, could not take account of the resolution.

'The Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group discussed progress on the Core Strategy at a meeting of 19th September 2007 and discussed the Council's change in position. The Group resolved not to take any action as it could be seen to be prejudging the outcome of the planning application inquiry into the M6 Link.

'When the Secretary of State's decision to approve the M6 link road was made public in February 2008, the Core Strategy Inspector was immediately notified and supplied with a copy of the decision letter. This makes specific and detailed reference to the City Council's position. The Inspector was, therefore, well aware of the City Council's position when considering this issue during the subsequent public examination in March 2008. Copies of these letters are available if you wish.'

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Whitelegg asked if the Leader was aware that the Inspector's draft report had been sent on 22nd May 2008 and the Council had replied on 3rd June 2008 that a fact check had been undertaken and there were no fundamental errors in the report.

Councillor Bryning replied that it had not been his area of responsibility at that time and he was not aware of this. He said that he would however make himself aware and reply to Councillor Whitelegg in writing.

3 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN WHITELEGG TO COUNCILLOR ABBOTT BRYNING

Which government departments were informed of the Council's decision to oppose the northern bypass after the vote in full council on 20th June 2007?

Councillor Bryning replied: 'The Council resolution to confirm the need for an M6 link but to oppose the northern route was conveyed to The Government Office for the North West, The North West Development Agency and the North West Regional Assembly by letter on 27th June 2007.'

4 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN WHITELEGG TO COUNCILLOR ABBOTT BRYNING

When did Lancaster City Council inform Lancashire County Council of its policy decision on 20th June 2007?

Councillor Bryning replied: 'The Programme Officer for the M6 Link public inquiry was notified of the Council's resolution by letter on 27th June 2007. This information was then made available to all parties attending the inquiry including the County Council and the Planning Inspectorate.'

By way of a supplementary question Councillor Whitelegg asked if the Leader agreed with him in regretting that the County Council had informed the Department of Transport in December 2008 that this Council supported the bypass road.

Councillor Bryning replied that whilst he did not himself regret it he could not answer for the actions of the County Council.

5 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JANICE HANSON TO COUNCILLOR JON BARRY

Can the Cabinet explain what is meant by mothballing Regent Road toilets?

Councillor Barry replied that he apologised for the use of the term 'mothballing' which he thought should join the list of 'banned' words. He explained that it meant that the toilets had been closed in such a way that they could remain permanently closed or could be re-opened later – that in effect the final decision is deferred.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Hanson pointed out that the toilets at Grosvenor had been 'mothballed' and were then bulldozed. So she was concerned that the same would happen with the Regent Road and Dome toilets and did Councillor Barry realise that they formed part of the sea wall which would need to be rebuilt if the toilets were demolished.

Councillor Barry replied that there was no money available in the current budget to bulldoze the toilets – any decision to do that could not be taken until after 2009/10.

6 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER ROBINSON TO COUNCILLOR ABBOTT BRYNING

What was the last date upon which money was deposited with an Icelandic Bank?

How much was this for? And for what length of time was that money deposited?

Councillor Bryning replied that the information requested in the question was clearly set out in the public report "Review of Investments In Icelandic Institutions" that was considered by both the Audit Committee on 17th November 2008, and then scrutinised by the Budget & Performance Panel on 25th November 2008.

He re-iterated the information supplied to Mr Hamilton Cox in the previous item on the agenda:

'The last date of an investment in Icelandic Banks was 15th May 2007 and two investments had been placed on that day:

- £1m with Landsbanki Islands on 15th May 2007 to run for 2 years from 16/5/07 to 15/5/09
- £2m with Kaupthing, Singer, and Friedlander on 15th May 2007 for a year forward deal to run from 16/5/08 to 15/5/09

By way of a supplementary question Councillor Robinson referred to the report of the Audit Commission which stated that anyone can break a deposit and asked if the Council was ignorant of this facility or whether they had been reluctant to use it?

Councillor Bryning replied that he understood that some deposits were contractual for a certain period of time but he undertook to investigate this and provide a written response.

7 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER ROBINSON TO COUNCILLOR JON BARRY

How much is there in this year's budget (2008-09), for plastic orange bags? How much remains of that budget?

Councillor Barry replied that the estimate for spend on refuse sacks in 2008/09 had been £35,500, of which £4,179 remained.

8 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER ROBINSON TO COUNCILLOR JON BARRY

Will bin men collect household waste from grey wheelie bins if the lids of the aforementioned bins are not completely closed?

Councillor Barry replied that lids are supposed to be closed but bin men should use their discretion. He understood that if they were nearly closed then they were emptied and they were only left unemptied if there were a lot of bags on top or there was a danger of breaking the lid.

By way a supplementary question Councillor Robinson asked if there had been many complaints about not emptying bins.

Councillor Barry replied that he did not know the numbers but stressed that generally a bin where the lid was nearly closed would be emptied unless the householder had done this a lot in the past.

9 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER ROBINSON TO COUNCILLOR JON BARRY

What are you going to do with the £12,000 saved from closing Regent Road and the Dome Toilets?

Councillor Barry replied that the original idea had been to close 12 toilets and open 20 new ones nearby, but this could not all now be done with only 2 being closed.

By way of a supplementary question Councillor Robinson suggested that you could not open many toilets for £12,000 so could the money be spent on orange bags?

Councillor Barry replied that it cost just £750 for a new toilet.

10 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR SUSAN BRAY TO COUNCILLOR MALCOLM THOMAS

Have any City Councillors claimed expenses in the current municipal year for travelling from outside the District in order to attend meetings inside the District?

Councillor Thomas replied: 'The answer to this question is 'Yes' and this is within the rules for Council expenses in the Council's Members Allowances Scheme which was last approved by full Council on 18th April 2007.'

By way of a supplementary question Councillor Bray asked if the rules were likely to be looked at so that travel expenses can only be paid from home or work within the District.

Councillor Thomas replied that it would be for full Council ultimately to decide on any changes but there was a mechanism by which the Independent Remuneration Panel could consider any proposals to change the Members Allowances Scheme and advised Councillor Bray to consult Democratic Services on this matter if she wished to make such a suggestion.

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