

**COUNCIL – 24 JULY 2019**  
**MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Questions to Portfolio Holders**

**A. Question from Cllr. Stephen Booth – “What costs have been incurred and how many staff working hours were disrupted during Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 June when online access was limited across the Council's workforce and the Civica payments system was unavailable, following the previous weekend's relocation of the CCTV control room at Cavendish Road and the unavailability of the hosted desktop system from 6 pm on Friday 14 June?”**

Answer - These are two separate issues which are not technically connected:

- 1) CCTV work and unavailability of Hosted desktop: This was a scheduled downtime to allow power changes at Cavendish around the CCTV relocation. This work had to be stopped due to issues regarding our storage system. Staff have been requested to log off from the Hosted desktop at 6pm on the Friday. Staff were able to log back on remotely or in the office from Sunday so no normal working time was disrupted.
- 2) Civica online payments: This is a system hosted outside the Council's infrastructure and affected all users of this Civica payment system nationwide. It was resolved by Civica payments. This was not connected to the aforementioned downtime. Civica reported that Impact began on 18 Jun 11:23 and ended at 12:36

**B. Question from Cllr. Robin Parker, CC – “Will SBC consider webcasting, electronic timing indicators and electronic voting at SBC meetings, similar to those now in use at HCC?”**

Answer - Officers have previously investigated the installation of equipment to facilitate both webcasting and electronic voting in the Chamber. This though was prior to the future planned move to the SG1 Public Sector Hub. Whilst it would not be prudent to incur the purchase and installation costs of such equipment in the current Council Chamber I can confirm that the new Hub will be suitably equipped.

The Mayor asked officers to look into the cost of electronic timing indicators ('traffic lights') post the last Council meeting. A couple of options are being considered and, if they are deemed to be satisfactory and affordable, the “green light” will be given!

**C. Question from Cllr. Graham Snell – “Does the Council have any plans to refurbish and repair the High Street entrance to King George Park which is in very poor condition and an important access point into the park and the Millennium Garden?”**

Answer – No refurbishment works are planned for implementation in the current financial year. Officers will be developing a Parks & Open Space Strategy in the near future and this will consider access and egress arrangements to our parks and green

spaces. Any future capital work requirements will be considered as part of the capital budget setting process and prioritised against other bids received.

**D. Question from Cllr Tom Wren – “On the SBC website a policy is stated that when a tree is felled by the council, where possible, a replacement tree will be planted nearby. Please could figures be provided for the last 3 years of the number of trees felled and replanted in the town?”**

Answer –The Council has recently declared a climate emergency, and notes the importance of trees both for the local environment but also for carbon capture (or offset) and will look at options in relation to tree planting as part of our work on the climate strategy

The Council is responsible for approximately 32,500 trees across the Borough. Our records show that approximately 530 trees were felled over the past three years and approximately 162 trees have been replaced. The vast majority of trees felled, were removed due to safety risks to members of the public or buildings. This number also includes self-set trees that were growing in inappropriate locations. We will seek to replace trees where it is appropriate to do so and/or will encourage self-set trees to mature where the location is appropriate and the tree will add value to the amenity of the area.

**E. Question from Cllr Andy McGuinness - “How much did the Council spend in the last financial year on food and drink for (a) Councillors (b) Mayoral events (c) Civic Events (non-mayoral)?”**

Answer - The amount of money spent in 2018/19 on food and drink (to the nearest pound) was £2,358 for Councillors, £6,275 for Mayor functions and for Civic events £6,957.

This excludes the civic suite drinks machines which would add a further £3,635 and which are used for officer meetings, public meetings and Member meetings.