

FULL COUNCIL - JANUARY

ACTION POINTS FOR PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Date of meeting	Action point	PH responsible for action	Response / Investigation Ongoing
18 Jan	<p>Cllr Symington referred to a previously agreed motion, part of which included a letter to be written to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, and asked, in light of events in the Metropolitan Police involving an officer living in Hertfordshire, whether the leader would follow up on this letter and ask what actions are being taken to ensure the same thing can never happen in the Hertfordshire Police. Cllr Williams agreed to do so</p> <p>Cllr Williams to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire regarding preventative measures taken or planned.</p>	Cllr Williams	Awaiting response.
18 Jan	<p>Cllr Tindall noted that the county is proposing a change to the arrangements for recycling across the ten districts, and wondered whether concerns regarding the impact on the borough had been brought to the attention of the portfolio holder, and if so, whether any decisions or actions had been taken. Cllr Barrett confirmed that the issue had not been brought to his attention, and so nothing had been discussed.</p> <p>-Cllr Barrett to update all councillors regarding the impact of county-proposed changes to recycling arrangements, once details are known.</p>	Cllr Barratt	Response will be sent once details are known.

18 Jan	<p>Cllr England further requested an update on how many Street Champions have registered, and how many have collected their equipment.</p> <p>Cllr Barrett to provide Street Champions update to Cllr England.</p>	Cllr Barratt	<p>Cllr Barratt sent response on 24 Jan 2023</p> <p>Response: I can advise that as of today we have 1009 registered Street Champions, of whom 639 have collected equipment.</p>
18 Jan	<p>Cllr Symington observed that cutting out question preamble leaves the portfolio holder without context, and unable to answer questions. Cllr Griffiths noted that the preamble information could have been sent beforehand. Cllr Symington confirmed that it had been submitted to the legal department, and suggested a revision to procedure as follows:</p> <p>Procedure to be revised, with question preamble sent to both the legal department and the portfolio holder prior to the meeting.</p>	Cllr Williams	Cllr Williams to review suggestion with legal.
22 Feb	Cllr Banks to report back to Cllr Maddern on antisocial behaviour in Bunkers Park.	Cllr Banks	Awaiting a response
	Cllr Banks to go back to Cllr England on the Air Quality on Queensway	Cllr Banks	<p>Cllr Banks Response: Following your question at full council regarding air quality in the Queensway area, I draw your attention to the minutes of the last SPAE OSC. At that meeting officers commented on Queensway, noting that the 2022 report focuses on 2021 data.</p> <p>I understand, Queensway was the only location showing exceedance. Currently we have 3 tubes in areas well below urban background levels being deployed around Queensway, Old Town High Street.</p>

		<p>We would normally expect 3 years of exceedance before Defra would require us to declare an Air Quality Management Area.</p> <p>I can confirm that this is being looked into further to see if we can establish why we saw this exceedance. We will continue to work closely with stakeholders and partners, including HCC, to ensure that remedial actions are taken to ensure good air quality not only in Queensway but across our towns and villages.</p> <p>We have established our areas of poorer air quality are related to traffic density. Highways, is a county council matter and as such I would ask members to join me and the members of the officer led Air Quality Steering group to lobby Hertfordshire County Council, their county councillors to ensure traffic management plans are brought forward at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Cllr England Response: Please don't be disingenuous; officers commented on Queensway only because I raised it as a question. This significant new exceedance, albeit an early reading, was in the ASR but excluded from the report to SPaE.</p> <p>My question to you at Full Council was: "What is the PH doing about the discovery of poor air quality at the junction of Marlowes and Queensway, found to be above the legal limit and as bad as Lawn Lane and Apsley London Road?" (NB: In the UK, the law on NO2 pollution – one of the most harmful pollutants – says annual average concentrations cannot exceed 40 micrograms per cubic metre)</p>
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			<p>actions are taken.</p> <p>Q - What action did the Portfolio holder take when notified of the breach on 21st December,</p> <p>A - I can confirm that this is being looked into further to see if we can establish why we saw this exceedance.</p> <p>I will continue to work closely with stakeholders and partners, including HCC, to ensure that remedial actions are taken to ensure good air quality.</p> <p>Q - and why didn't she ask for it to be reported to SPaE?</p> <p>A – I am advised by officers, we would normally expect 3 years of exceedance to ensure it was not just an isolated reading. Knowing that the officer led Air Quality Steering Group has reconvened (officers having been diverted to manage the COVID 19 pandemic) and this matter would be reviewed by those lead officers. I did not judge this to be the right time to bring an incomplete report to SPaE. Incomplete in as much as we have not established this is an ongoing air quality issue and officers have not yet been able to establish why we have seen this exceedance.</p> <p>I have no further comment at this time but assure you and members that once I have an update – I will share it with you all</p>
22 Feb	Cllr Griffiths to provide further information to Cllr Freedman regarding service charges.	Cllr Griffiths	At the last Full Council meeting on 22nd February 2023, you asked for assurance that there was a cap on individual tenants service charge. I can confirm that

			services charges this year are capped at 7% as per Government guidance on services charges and rents.
22 Feb	Cllr Williams to circulate take-up figures of solar panels when available.	Cllr Williams	Will send when available
22 Feb	Cllr Williams to check if any direct applications have been made to government regarding swimming pool heating costs.	Cllr Williams	Awaiting response