

**North Somerset Council  
Council Meeting, 8 November 2022  
Question Time (Agenda Item 12)**

**Question 1**

**From Councillor Westwood**

**To Councillor Hogg, Executive Member for Transport and Highways**

**Public Realm works in Clevedon**

Councillor Westwood asked the following question of Councillor Hogg:

“Can you assure us that the public realm works nearing completion in Clevedon on Hill Road and the beach, are fully in compliance with this Conservative government’s Climate Emergency and Active Travel policies. Indeed, that this compliance underpins and was the basis of North Somerset Council securing funds to carry out the works?”

Councillor Hogg thanked Councillor Westwood for his question and responded that this was a condition of the grant funding and the works complied with the government’s Active Travel policy. The funding had been ringfenced as it was from the Department for Transport and for a specific purpose. The money used was not council taxpayers’ money.

**Question 2**

**From Councillor Charles**

**To Councillor Canniford, Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy**

**Post Offices**

Councillor Charles asked the Executive Member the following question:

“Would you agree that post offices are vital community hubs and therefore key to the placemaking of communities would you therefore be prepared to work with your executive colleagues including the portfolio holder for community engagement in urging the post office to have a full frank and open discussion on the options for keeping threatened post offices in North Somerset open and that the public are engaged fully in the process and kept informed.?”

Councillor Canniford thanked Councillor Charles for his question and noted that post offices had become increasingly unprofitable with the change of the post masters’ salary to commission, and many relied on the profits from retail sales to survive. He added that the Post Office was responsible for consultation on closures and securing alternative sites including opening a temporary site until one was found. He would ask the Post Office to do this in relation to the announced closures in Portishead and Milton Road, Weston-s-Mare and noted that the Chief Executive had already been in

contact with the Post Office seeking reassurances that an alternative site was being sought for Portishead.

Councillor Bridger added that he too had followed up with the contact at the Post Office and had sought assurances regarding the Milton Road site. The pressure would be kept on and the Post Office asked to keep ward members and communities informed.

### **Question 3**

**From Councillor Payne**

**To Councillor Canniford, Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy**

#### **Small Business Saturday – 3 December 2022**

Councillor Payne asked the Executive Member whether the council would support Small Business Saturday on 3 December 2022 as local independent shops were struggling. He believed it was an important initiative that should be promoted through the council's social media channels.

Councillor Canniford thanked Councillor Payne for his question and agreed to speak with the council's Communications team to support the initiative. He would also speak with the Assistant Director regarding parking incentives to see if these would be possible.

### **Question 4**

**From Councillor Cato**

**To Councillor Petty, Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Engagement**

#### **Climate Emergency and carbon accounting**

Councillor Cato asked the Executive member the following question:

“Under Climate Emergency section on all reports and papers, will you commit to ensure they fully account for carbon emissions with reliable trusted carbon accounting metrics within 4 months?”

Councillor Petty thanked Councillor Cato for his question and replied that the council had recently engaged a new project manager. She would take away an action to speak with officers on the matter of clear carbon accounting particularly for those decisions within the council's influence. She noted however, that the council did not have the in-house experience and skills to carry out carbon tracking. She would investigate the possibility but could not commit to the request.

### **Question 5**

**From Councillor Keating**

**To Councillor Gibbons, Executive Member for Children, Young People, Lifelong learning, and Skills**

### **New Special School site in Churchill**

Councillor Keating asked if the Executive Member could reassure residents of Churchill that their concerns over the site of the new special school in Churchill would be taken into account and fed back to the Department for Education (DfE).

Councillor Gibbons thanked Councillor Keating for his question and agreed that the concerns of Churchill residents would be taken into account and fed back to the DfE.

### **Question 6**

**From Councillor Willis  
To Councillor Bridger, Leader of the Council**

#### **Respect in the Chamber**

Councillor Willis asked if the Executive Member would ensure respect for all members in the Chamber and keep politics out of debate.

The Executive Member responded that he did not believe this was his jurisdiction during a Council meeting as that fell to the Chairperson.

The Chairperson responded that she had not been aware of any lack of respect during the meeting but supported the principle of showing respect to members.

### **Question 7**

**From Councillor James  
To Councillor Cartman, Executive Member for Corporate Services**

#### **West of England Good Employment Charter**

Councillor James asked if the Executive Member would support the council applying to be a member of the Charter as whilst the council was a sponsor, it was not a member itself.

The Executive Member thanked Councillor James for his question and replied that he supported the initiative and that it was already being discussed by the Economy Group.