

Summary of Questions to Executive Wednesday, 18 November, 2020



QUESTION	FROM	GROUP	TO	SUBJECT
1.	Councillor Hannides	CONS	Councillor Hammond	Reduction in income
QUESTION	In view of the anticipated reduction in income from business rates, council tax and fees, what measures are the Executive taking to mitigate this and what action is being taken to support local businesses, boost the local economy and save local jobs?			
2.	Councillor Fitzhenry	CONS	Councillor Hammond	Southampton Airport Expansion Proposal
QUESTION	Can the Leader outline the Cabinets political position on the Southampton Airport Expansion proposal?			
3.	Councillor Fitzhenry	CONS	Councillor Leggett	Bedford Place
QUESTION	Will the Cabinet member outline his criteria for the re-opening of Bedford Place?			
4.	Councillor S Galton	CONS	Councillor Leggett	Cost of Bassett Avenue temporary road measures
QUESTION	It has now been 2 months since I asked for the breakdown of costs related to the Bassett Avenue road measures in September's meeting. I have yet to receive an answer from yourself or officers. Can you provide this information yet: The total cost of the Bassett Avenue temporary road measures (related to cycle lane re-provision) between			

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	<p>the Winchester Road roundabout and the Chilworth Roundabout.</p> <p>The breakdown of this total cost to include a breakdown of the costs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial cone only scheme • The removal of the cones and the painting of lines • The cost of removing the lines and restoring the road to its original condition 			
5.	Councillor S Galton	CONS	Councillor Hammond	Blue Badge Parking Charges
QUESTION	<p>The Executive have chosen now to introduce new blue badge parking charges, using the justification of ensuring a turnover of vehicles and citing the Government's decision to expand the blue badge scheme.</p> <p>Officers have confirmed to me that this decision was progressed before the decision of the new national restrictions and it was made and justified prior to Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>As such, will the Leader agree to postpone any of these new charges or trials, until we can fully assess the impact of Covid-19 on our City and District centres.</p> <p>In considering your response I would urge you to consider the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the cabinet report it states the decision is in the interests of all users. Given the challenges those living with a disability face, and the excess of parking choice and capacity across our City – is it not the right thing to do to support our most vulnerable by not introducing new taxes? • We have only seen a 20% increase in blue badge holders since the Government rightly expanded the criteria; and many of our car parks are currently operating at between 50-60% capacity; reflecting the significant drop in footfall due to Covid-19. • Officers have always stated this isn't about raising revenue – at a time we don't have a capacity issue in our car parks why carry on with these proposals, unless you want to raise more revenue from blue badge holders? • The purple pound may actually prove crucial in reviving and changing how our City and District centres survive and adapt to the post COvid-19 world – if this isn't about revenue raising there can be no argument against re-thinking your plans, in light of the much changed situation we are now in. 			

