

1 DECEMBER 2009

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COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS CASWILL  
CHIPPENHAM MONKTON DIVISION

TO COUNCILLOR TOBY STURGIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR WASTE,  
PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT

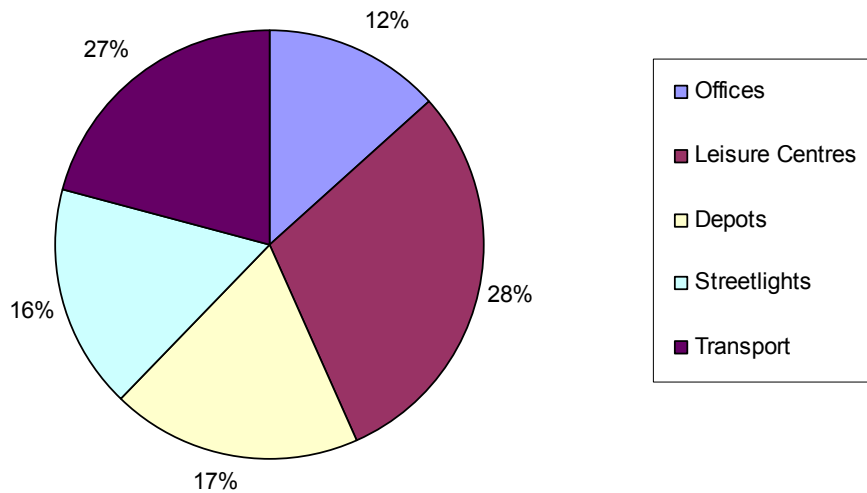
Question 1

On behalf of my Liberal Democrat colleagues, I congratulate him on his signature of the 10 : 10 commitments. Will he now take the chance to spell out the five key areas in which he is looking to reduce the Council's carbon emissions, and the main steps which will be taken in each case in the coming year?

Response

- Under the 10:10 campaign, we have pledged to reduce our 2009/10 emissions excluding schools and outsourced services by 10% between April 2010 and March 2011.
- In 2008/2009 the five Wiltshire councils spent around £8.3 million on energy and emitted approximately 60,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Once schools emissions and outsourced services are excluded, total emissions came to around 40,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The relative sources of emissions covered by the 10:10 campaign are summarised in the pie chart below. **The chart shows that the five key areas where we will need to cut emissions are: leisure centres; transport (staff travel and fleet); depots; streetlights; and offices.** Data for 2009/10 will be available in July 2010.

**Wiltshire councils - emissions by source 2008-09  
(excluding schools and outsourced services)**



- The climate change team is working with the Carbon Trust on the production of a 5 year Carbon Management Plan. This plan will identify specific projects which will reduce both the Council's carbon footprint and energy bills in the five areas above. The plan is due to be approved by the council's Climate Change Board by end of March 2010.
- The plan will focus on four main types of carbon reduction activity:
  - Staff behaviour change
    - eg Switching off equipment, smarter driving
  - Energy efficiency measures
    - eg Insulation of buildings, installation of efficient lighting
  - Service transformation
    - eg Workplace transformation, rationalisation of servers
  - Energy generation
    - eg Combined heat and power, renewable energy/ low carbon energy
- Within each area of activity there are numerous potential projects. These will be prioritised and implemented according to their cost-effectiveness and the level of capital investment available.
- A report will be provided to the Environment Select Committee in March 2010 updating on progress in quantifying carbon reduction projects and the development of our 5 year carbon reduction plan.
- Another key area of work for 2010/11 is to improve our data on energy consumption, which will help us target carbon reduction measures more

effectively and improve our performance under the Carbon Reduction Commitment.

## **Question 2**

Do you expect to inform the residents of Wiltshire about this administration's plans for household waste collection before the upcoming General Election?

## **Response**

As I am sure Councillor Caswill and his colleagues are aware the next phase in developing the Waste Transformation is the consultation on the costed options. The consultation was agreed by Cabinet last week(24<sup>th</sup>.November) and is likely to commence at the end of January 2010 and to include all the Area Boards and the earliest closing date would be the end of March 2010.

Once the responses have been considered the next phase will be to report to Cabinet having considered the necessary contract changes and any need for planning permission. The first possible Cabinet meeting where this report could be considered is May 25<sup>th</sup> 2010.

## **TO COUNCILLOR JOHN NOEKEN, CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

## **Question 1**

As of 27 November 2009, what were the numbers of unfilled staff vacancies on the Council's payroll , and the percentages of total complement:

- a. for the Council as whole, and
- b. in each of the Council's Corporate Departments, and particularly
- c. in the directorate of Business transformation and ICT

Secondly, within each of those totals, how many of those posts were being actively filled as of 27 November?

Thirdly, are there any staff of the former District Councils who have not yet been given established posts, and how many in the case of each of the four former Districts?

## **Response**

Unfortunately we cannot say how many unfilled vacancies there are as this information is not yet available in SAP. The new organisational structures are still being built within the system, and historical data relating to posts in the old

County and District Councils remain in the system as well. As a result we cannot differentiate between those posts that should have been deleted, and those that are new or still applicable in the new structures. This information though will be available in the future. Because of this we can only say the extent to which the actual establishment of the Council has reduced since 1st April, and how many vacancies we are actively trying to fill at the present time. All of this information is in the table below.

In answer to point c there are currently 20 people left in the redeployment pool broken down as follows:-

WC	5
SDC	6
KDC	2
NWDC	4
WWDC	3

<b>Headcount (HC) change 01/04/09 - 27/11/09</b>						
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>01/04/2009 HC</b>	<b>27/11/2009 HC</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Current advertised vacancies</b>	<b>Vacancies as a % of HC</b>
Chief Executive	22	17	-5	-22.7%	0	0.00%
Children	1440	1458	18	1.3%	8	0.55%
Community	1229	1182	-47	-3.8%	6	0.51%
Econ Devt, Planning, Housing	572	564	-8	-1.4%	19	3.37%
Policy and Communications	63	55	-8	-12.7%	0	0.00%
Resources	1028	963	-65	-6.3%	18	1.87%
Transport Envnt and Leisure	1410	1372	-38	-2.7%	5	0.36%
<b>Wiltshire Council</b>	<b>5764</b>	<b>5611</b>	<b>-153</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1.00%</b>
Business Transformation + ICT	125	106	-19	-15.2%	5	4.72%

The table, above, shows the change in headcount from the 1st of April 2009 to the 27th of November 2009.

Wiltshire Council has seen a reduction in headcount by 2.7% with each directorate seeing a reduction except for the Department of Children and Education which has grown by 1.3%.

Wiltshire Council is currently advertising 56 vacancies which accounts for 1% of the 27/11/09 headcount.

We cannot tell if there are any other vacancies not being advertised or predict how many employees will leave (i.e. voluntarily, or as a result of their employment ending for other reasons). Therefore it is unlikely to be the case that the headcount will increase by a further 56 because this is the level of vacancies being advertised. For example the latest turnover figures (May-July 2009) indicate that 58 (38 voluntarily) employees leave Wiltshire Council every month with 21 (13 to replace employees still in post) of the current advertised vacancies being a direct consequence of this turnover.

What must be borne in mind is that this is live data, and the figures will change on a daily basis.

COUNCIL  
1 DECEMBER 2009

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**COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WEST  
TILL AND WYLYE VALLEY DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR LIONEL GRUNDY, CABINET MEMBER FOR  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**Question**

Since the closure of the former Wilton Middle School in August 2005 could the cabinet member tell me what is the total cost spent on this site?

**Response**

As Cllr West is aware parts of the site are still being used as a base by the Local Education Team and during parts of the period his question refers to there was some use of the site by community groups and the Youth Development Service. This Council is not the sole owner of the site as Salisbury Diocese own part of it.

The net costs of maintaining and securing the site for each year have been:

2005/6-£26,282  
2006/7-£48,932  
2007/8--£56,699  
2008/9-£25,747  
2009/10-£23,688

Officers are continuing to look for opportunities to redevelop or dispose of the site and are liaising with the local Councillor and community groups on this matter.

**TO COUNCILLOR DICK TONGE**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

**Question**

Since the new junction layout was introduced at Newcutt Crossroads on the A360 how many injury accidents have been recorded.

**Response**

The following table lists the collisions involving personal injury since the changes to the junction layout. Please note the 2009 data includes incidents up to 31/09/2009 only.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	4	3	3	2

The accident rate at the junction continues to give concern. It is intended to carry out a feasibility study into further changes to the layout to improve safety by the end of the current financial year.