

Wiltshire Council

Council

25 February 2014

Item 10 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Simon Killane, Malmesbury Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 12

Let's now use the electronic voting system to give the people of Wiltshire direct access to the full voting profile of each Councillor and save time on traditional recorded voting!

I would like to ask Cllr Jane Scott's opinion on my suggestion that the new electronic voting system is used for all voting requirements from now on, including this budget meeting, and that the old system of hands in the air or the "Ayes/Nays" method of voting is consigned to the history books. I would also like to know when the people of Wiltshire to be able to access the complete electronic voting history for each Wiltshire Councillor just as can be done for [MP's in Parliament](#).

Question 13

Let's now use the new electronic video recording system give the people of Wiltshire direct sound and visual access to all our Full Council meetings!

I would like to ask Cllr Jane Scott to update me on the progress of the implementation of the video recording and streaming technology. The people of Wiltshire must now have the opportunity to listen to and see the debates first hand and to make up their own minds about the proposals, amendments, decisions and debates that are a regular part of these meetings.

Response to Questions 12 and 13

Following discussions at the Group Leaders meeting on 19 February it is proposed that a cross party working group (to include group leaders) is set up to consider the introduction of video recording, streaming technology and the use of the electronic voting system for Full Council meetings. This would include ensuring that relevant safeguards are in place to protect the interests of the council

It is suggested that the working group will consult cabinet and any changes proposed to the constitution would be reported to Full council through the Standards Committee.

Question 14

Let's resolve to address the issues that deter the people of Wiltshire from participating in Wiltshire Council as elected representatives!

I would like to ask Cllr Jane Scott, Leader of Wiltshire Council, to express a view on the following:

That Scrutiny Management must be actioned with setting up a Task Group to quantify the diversity of age, gender, race and ethnicity of the elected membership of the council, that the outcomes from this study are used to determine the root causes responsible of any diversity imbalance and that proposals are made for consideration by full council to address any imbalance.

Response

It is not for me, as leader, to determine the issues that Overview and Scrutiny should consider. However I recognise that this is clearly an important issue but one that requires addressing at a national level and would suggest that councillors who are concerned about this should take it up through the appropriate channels.