



Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET OR CHAIR UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 17

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 MARCH 2013

QUESTION NO 1

FROM: COUNCILLOR JOHN FERRETT

TO REPLY: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR GERALD VERNON-JACKSON

Can the Council Leader explain when members will be briefed on the Portsmouth Supporters Trust's updated business plan?

QUESTION NO 2

FROM: COUNCILLOR STEVE WEMYSS

TO REPLY: CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION
COUNCILLOR ROB WOOD

Is the cabinet member for education surprised that Matthew Coffey, Ofsted regional director for the South East, sent a team of inspectors into Portsmouth? Sent because of the fact that the quality of schools varies too much across this local authority compared with others with similar demographics, such as population, size and deprivation.

In his words; "In Portsmouth, barely a third of secondary school-age children and just over half of primary school children attended a good or better school at the time of the last annual report," he said, using Ofsted data from December 2012.

"That is why we are carrying out focused school inspections across under-performing areas, where we will be looking not just at the performance of the individual schools but also the support they are receiving from their local authority.

We will be seeking to determine whether councils are really fulfilling their statutory duties to promote high standards and fair access to educational opportunity".

QUESTION NO 3

FROM: COUNCILLOR LUKE STUBBS

TO REPLY: CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION
COUNCILLOR JASON FAZACKARLEY

Is the Cabinet member satisfied with the quality of repairs recently made to the Clarence Esplanade between the Blue Reef Aquarium and Southsea Castle?

QUESTION NO 4

FROM: COUNCILLOR STEVE WEMYSS

TO REPLY: CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION
COUNCILLOR ROB WOOD

Does the cabinet member for Education think that Court Lane Infant School, one of the few really high achieving schools in this City, should be having to spend its own funds maintaining a tree outside its boundary fence and repairing the damage it causes rather than maintaining the high educational standards the school currently achieves?

Does he further think it appropriate that, in seeking to preserve funding in the long term, the school should fell this mature tree which would detract from the character and quality of the area in which it sits?