

## Responses to questions at Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 30 September 2014

Member	Subject	Question	Response
Cllr Bowen	Waste contract complaints	When will the issue with the truck rams be sorted?	A high incidence of vehicles being off-road has been experienced due to a mechanical defect in the rams in the rear of the new fleet. The defective part has been identified by Faun (the vehicle manufacturer) as supplied by a factory in France. Faun have responded by commissioning the drilling of new rams from a German supplier and have (until the situation is resolved) supplied Biffa with additional vehicles to ensure that service is not impacted by any further ram failures.
Cllr Bowen	LDF/CIL	Why is this project being re-profiled?	The Local Plan / CIL timetable has struggled to keep up with constantly changing national planning policy. The Local Plan timetable has now been reconfigured and was agreed by LDF Panel in June. The CIL project is dependent on the Local Plan and cannot be pursued until the Local Plan is ready for Examination in Public. With the revised timetables for the projects, we are now on track for submission early next year, barring any further unforeseen changes to national policy.
Cllr Constable	Fly-posting	Do we have a policy?	The environment wardens can issue fixed penalties to anyone caught fly posting, or they can potentially take action against the beneficiaries. The wardens will take down any fly posters that they come across whilst out and about. This includes fly posters on any highway furniture, although KCC have chosen not to delegate powers to Swale BC for taking enforcement action against persons fly posting on KCC highway furniture. There are some exceptions to the rule, so it is advisable for incidents to be reported to the Swale call centre on 01795 417850, and an environment warden will update the customer with the actions that can be taken in each case.

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Cllr Haywood	Establishment posts	Is there a list of vacant posts within the establishment?	iTrent is able to list out all of the vacant posts in the establishment, but it can only do so against individual cost centres, so the production of a single list is rather onerous. The finance team applies an across-the-board 'vacancy factor' to all cost centres with staffing costs, which expects a 5% saving to be realised over the course of the year as a result of vacancies. This figure is based on historical trends and is generally met across the organisation as a whole, although of course it may not be met by all cost centres and may be exceeded by others. In 2013/14, the total value of this anticipated 5% saving was £256k, and this was achieved across the organisation by the end of the year. Further detail on this, including salary-related variances broken down by head of service, is provided in the 2013/14 year-end financial outturn report, available at <a href="http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/CeListDocuments.aspx?MID=1425&amp;RD=Notice%20of%20Meeting&amp;DF=16%2f07%2f2014&amp;A=1&amp;R=0">http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/CeListDocuments.aspx?MID=1425&amp;RD=Notice%20of%20Meeting&amp;DF=16%2f07%2f2014&amp;A=1&amp;R=0</a> (refer Item 5, Annex I).
Cllr Haywood	LEFs	How will the dip in LEF attendance be addressed?	The most recent quarter-on-quarter drop is probably the result of April's Faversham LEF having unusually high attendance due to the MIU agenda item. Trying to boost attendance continues to be a challenge for us, so the tactics are to ensure exciting agenda items. In December 2014 for example we have Ann Barnes attending Sittingbourne. We are also trying to target our marketing of the LEFs more effectively.
Cllr Haywood	A-level politics	Are any local secondaries /sixth forms offering A-level politics?	The following secondary schools in Swale offer Government and Politics at A-level as part of their sixth form prospectus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Borden Grammar</li> <li>- Highstead Grammar</li> <li>- Queen Elizabeth Grammar</li> <li>- Westlands.</li> </ul>
Cllrs Haywood and	Complaints about KCC	What happens to	When SBC receives a complaint about a KCC service, the standard response is to advise the customer that it is a KCC matter and to recommend that they contact

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Henderson	services	complaints made to SBC about KCC services? Is there a process/monitoring?	KCC direct. Where feasible, SBC will also forward calls and/or complaints to KCC, but otherwise does not involve itself in complaints about KCC services.