

CITY COUNCIL

19 JANUARY 2010

**QUESTIONS ASKED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
FOR WRITTEN REPLY (CPR10)**

**MQ1 COUNCILLOR A FOX TO ASK COUNCILLOR B
JANKE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

'NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES'

**Q1 Can the Leader confirm that her Administration will
not be wasting any Council taxpayers' money by
subscribing or affiliating to "Nuclear Free Local
Authorities"?**

A1

**MQ02 COUNCILLOR R EDDY TO ASK COUNCILLOR DR J
ROGERS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT
AND SUSTAINABILITY**

PROVISION OF SEVERE WEATHER ROAD GRIT

**Q1. Can the Executive Member advise me of the
Council's current contingency arrangements for
the gritting of roads?**

A1

**Q2. Can the Executive Member confirm whether or not
any provision will be made in the future to make
side roads navigable?**

A2

MQ3 COUNCILLOR R EDDY TO ASK COUNCILLOR C CAMPION-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SCHOOL CLOSURES POLICY

Q1. Can the Executive Member advise me of the Council's current policy in relation to the closing of schools due to severe weather?

A1

Q2. Does the Executive Member not agree with me that except for very exceptional circumstances, parents and pupils are entitled to expect their school to remain open during severe weather?

A2

MQ04 COUNCILLOR C BOLTON TO ASK COUNCILLOR DR J ROGERS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY

I submitted a petition some months ago (shortly after the last cold snap) about gritting of cycle and footpaths.

Q1. Could Councillor Rogers advise what meetings have taken place following this petition?

A1

Q2. Could he advise me what actions took place as a result of these meetings?

A2

Q3. Recent blog postings (of which he is aware) mention the possibility that the extra cost to the NHS in terms of increased injuries could alleviate or offset some of the costs of gritting. Is this true?

A3

Q4. He has also mentioned more recent meetings he has had re gritting footpaths. Could he advise us what the outcome of these meetings is?

A4

Q5. Could he tell us what council policy regarding the gritting of footpaths and cycle paths is?

A5

Q6. Could he tell us if there are to be any changes to the policy, following the recent cold snap?

A6

Q7. Could he assure us the issue of gritting of footpaths/cyclepaths wont get forgotten?

A7

MQ5 COUNCILLOR R EDDY TO ASK COUNCILLOR B JANKE, LEADER OF COUNCIL

COPENHAGEN MINI-SUMMIT

Q1. Can the Leader advise me of the outcome of her visit in December to the Copenhagen Climate Summit for Mayors?

A1

Q2. Can the Leader provide any reassurance that she will offset the carbon emissions generated from her attendance at this event?

A2

MQ06 COLIN SMITH TO ASK COUNCILLOR DR M WRIGHT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

PROVISION OF CONCERT ARENA

The recent Bristol Reporter distributed in South Bristol quotes you as saying that 'the Liberal Democrats have made it clear that it sees the provision of a concert arena as an essential part of any deal to deliver a new stadium.'

In the 'Bristol Evening Post' dated January 5th, Councillor Barbara Janke, the Council Leader is quoted as saying, "There is no formal link between the idea of an arena ... and a stadium, and it is not for the Lib Dem administration to say whether there should be an arena there."

Q1 As a member of that same Lib Dem administration, do you agree with Councillor Janke, or will you continue to campaign on a misleading and dishonest platform at the General Election?

A1

MQ7 COUNCILLOR R STONE TO ASK COUNCILLOR DR J ROGERS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY

SALT AND GRITTING OF ROADS IN BRISTOL

Q1 What is the current level of salt and gritting stocks in the city?

A1

Q2 What preparation to maintain gritting/salt levels did you make, when severe weather and heavy ice and snow was forecast?

A2

Q3 Were these actions sufficient to deal with current highway and pedestrian access in the city?

A3

Q4 What is the plan if salt/grit supplies run low in Bristol, if national shortages continue?

A4

Q5 Many areas of the city remain untreated, leaving residents with dangerous pavements and impossible driving conditions, under current treatment policies. Are you prepared to sanction a total review of highway treatments with a view to widening actions to assist residents citywide in future?

A5

Q6 What action will you take to assist residents trapped in their streets and homes in the short term to assure their continuing health and safety?

A6

MQ8 COUNCILLOR M BRAIN TO ASK COUNCILLOR DR J ROGERS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY

GRITTING OF ICY PAVEMENTS

Q1 Will the Executive Member join me in thanking Bristol City Council staff who battled through difficult conditions and often had to cope with slippery pavements to get to work to serve the people of Bristol in the recent period of cold and icy weather?

A1

Q2 Does he agree with me that without their dedication to their chosen professions, particularly those associated with home care and meals on wheels, many elderly and vulnerable people would have been isolated and possibly unfed or uncared for and many other vital services would not have been provided?

A2

Q3 Does he realise that the task of getting to work for many people in both the public and private sectors, including Bristol City Council staff, was made more difficult by the fact that pavements on hills or in areas of high pedestrian use remained un-gritted?

A3

Q4 As an Executive Member and as a General Practitioner can he tell me what are the likely consequences in terms of sick leave taken of a professional person breaking a leg whilst attempting to walk to work on pavements that have not been gritted?

A4

Q5 As an Executive Member and as a General Practitioner can he tell me what the likely consequences of a septuagenarian or an octogenarian, desperate to get a prescription filled or to obtain vital food supplies, breaking a hip whilst attempting to walk to their local shops on pavements that have not been gritted?

A5

Q6 How much does it cost Bristol City Council to grit 100 metres of average width pavement?

A6

Q7 Which costs less, paying a home help to be off sick whilst a broken bone mends or gritting 100 metres of pavement?

A7

Q8 Which costs less, treating an elderly person who has broken a major bone or gritting 100 metres of pavement?

A8

Q9 Does he agree with me that Bristol City Council has let down the people of Bristol by failing to take account of the needs of pedestrians during the recent period of cold weather?

A9

Q10 During the recent period of icy weather a pharmacist in my ward rang Bristol City Council to request that the pavement in front of their premises was gritted to make access easier for customers, many of whom were fearful of falling on the ice. They were told they could grit the pavement themselves using grit provided from BCC grit bins. However, this would have made them legally liable for anyone who subsequently fell if the ground re-froze. Is it acceptable for Bristol City Council to advise businesses and private citizens to potentially expose themselves to legal action in this way?

A10

Q11 Does he agree with me that the people of Bristol would be better served if a root and branch review of the policy on the gritting of pavements were undertaken with a view to prioritising pavements that should be gritted in icy conditions and setting in place a pavement gritting strategy for future periods of icy weather?

A11