

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 22 MAY 2009

Questions from Mr D Phelps, Hereford.

- 6.1 *Do the Council have a contract with recruitment company Pertemps to exclusively provide the authority with all temporary and interim staff?*

On 29 and 30 April and 1 May 2009 the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and all Directors went to the Priory Hotel, Stretton Sugwas for a three day conference.

- 6.2 *Was this known and approved by the Leader or another Cabinet Member?*
- 6.2.1 *How much total gross salary will be paid to attendees during this event?*
- 6.2.2 *How much will this event cost the council tax payer (inclusive of VAT)?*
- 6.2.3 *Did any of the attendees order or consume alcohol during this event?*
- 6.2.4 *Is there a council policy precluding the consumption of alcohol by officers during the working day?*
- 6.3 *How much did it cost to furnish, re-decorate, carpet and structurally complete the Chief Executive's new office at Brockington?*
- 6.3.1 *How much did the new board table cost?*
- 6.3.2 *Is there a policy that all council furniture is purchased from West Mercia Supplies?*
- 6.3.3 *Was the board table purchased from West Mercia Supplies and if not, why not?*
- 6.4 *Has the new Deputy Chief Executive commissioned a review of the Legal and Democratic Services division of the Council?*
- 6.5 *A Herefordshire Councillor is standing for election to the European Parliament and, since she is top of the relevant candidate list, is likely to be elected. Has the Councillor resigned from the Council?*
- 6.6 *Have any Members of the Cabinet been issued with a Herefordshire Council parking contravention enforcement ticket since the last election?*
- 6.6.1 *If yes, what is the longest period that has elapsed between the issue of the tickets and the payment of the penalty?*
- 6.6.2 *Have any penalties been withdrawn or waived and are any outstanding?*

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- 6.7 *Since the last local government election, how many Herefordshire Council officers have left under the terms of the so-called Compromise Agreements?*

The Council's deep partnership with the PCT seeks to achieve cost savings.

- 6.8 *What is the combined total cost of all basic salaries paid to the former Chief Executive and Directors of the Council in the twelve months prior to the appointment of Chris Bull?*

- 6.8.1 *What is the combined total gross cost of all basic salaries paid to the former Chief Executive and Directors of Herefordshire PCT in the twelve months prior to the appointment of Chris Bull?*

- 6.8.2 *In the year ending 31 December 2009, what is the total projected basic gross salary cost (including fees to interim appointees) of the current Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executives and all Directors of the combined organisation?*

- 6.9 *Will the Leader confirm that, following the Crookall report, he can reassure us that there will be no repetition of the bullying by senior staff and failure to adhere to council policies identified in the report?*

- 6.10 *At a recent conference at the Courtyard Councillor John Jarvis promised that all staff of the Council would be given an opportunity to see the film "Age of Stupid". What percentage of staff have now seen the film and will they be empowered to make relevant changes to council policy in the light of lessons learnt from the film?*