

**Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from Councillors**

Question No.	Questioner	Question	Question to
MQ 1.	Cllr Ben Proctor	<p><b>In response to a FOI request in January the council revealed that it does not hold the details of Public Space Protection Orders as polygons in a Geographical Information System but instead as manually annotations to static images.</b></p> <p><b>How does this approach align to the councils Digital Data and Technology Strategy?"</b></p>	<p><b>Councillor Stoddart, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services</b></p>
<p><b>Response:</b> This is not something that a Digital, Data and Transformation strategy would cover. The decision on how a specific service uses data is for the service and information asset owner(s). We are aware that there are several geographic information systems in use across the council and have suggested that this be an area for review by the relevant service areas and information asset owners. There is an opportunity to align this with key projects, going forward.</p> <p>We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters with you further.</p>			
<p><b>Supplementary Question:</b> I asked this question to highlight the challenge the council faces if it is serious about using data as part of its transformation. In 2026, data about place should be held in a geographic information system. We should be staggered to find an occasion when it isn't held that way. Though I was not in fact staggered to find that we hold geographic information as hand annotations on images. It's a necessary but insufficient step towards being able to ask questions of the data that you hold the data in a structured electronic format. The council's current DDAT strategy claims our data is a valuable and key organizational asset. But this is not how you treat key assets. Key assets are managed in line with corporate requirements and using shared standards and skills. In the data world, we often refer to this boring but important stuff as fixing the plumbing. How is the cabinet member going to ensure that sufficient resources invested in fixing our plumbing?</p>			
<p><b>Supplementary Response:</b> To address that very issue that Councillor Proctor's addressed we've now employed and got in place a chief digital information officer who as we've explained in the answer to Councillor Proctor we are addressing that as a matter of priority and the offer that we offered at the bottom to engage and welcome Councillor Proctor's participation in that stands out there, so if you'd like to assist us we're more than welcome come on board and help. Thank you.</p>			