

West Sussex County Council – Agenda Item No. 7 – Written Questions

21 July 2017

1. Written question from **Dr Walsh** for reply by the **Chairman**

Question

- (a) What advice has been sought and given on the legality of the financial arrangements surrounding the retirement of the former Chief Fire Officer, and his re-employment within the County Council?
- (b) Is it not contrary to government advice?
- (c) What are the total one off and continuing costs to both the Pension Fund and the County Council?

Answer

As members will be aware the officer in question has, for personal reasons, decided not to take up the post to which he was appointed by an Appointing Committee last month. To answer the questions as put:

- (a) Advice was sought from and given by the Director of Law and Assurance who also passed that advice to Dr Walsh and other group leaders in April 2017 prior to the appointment being considered.
- (b) No, the appointment of the Executive Director by the Appointing Committee, of which Dr Walsh was a member, is not contrary to government advice. The appointment was not to a Fire and Rescue Service post.
- (c) There are no one-off or continuing costs to the Pension Fund. There are no one-off or continuing costs to the County Council as the officer was appointed to a post remunerated at the same level as the post vacated on his retirement as County Fire Officer. That was fully explained to Dr Walsh and to all group leaders and again at the time of the Appointing Committee's consideration of the appointment.

2. Written question from **Dr Walsh** for reply by the **Chairman**

Question

Could the Chairman of the Council list the numbers of the following post holders from the 56 Conservative county councillors, the extra Special Responsibility Allowance payable to each type of post holder, and the total sum of these payments over a full year?

- (a) Chairman
- (b) Vice-Chairman

- (c) Leader
- (d) Deputy Leader
- (e) Cabinet Member
- (f) Senior Adviser
- (g) Adviser
- (h) Scrutiny Committee Chairman
- (i) Other Committee Chairman

Answer

This table shows Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) paid to Conservative members as at 29 June 2017. An indicative annual total is given, although exact payments are likely to vary because of a number of changes that took effect at the election.

The SRAs are paid in accordance with the Members' Allowance Scheme, which was agreed by Council in December 2016, on the recommendation of an Independent Remuneration Panel. The amounts paid to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and minority group leaders are higher than was recommended by the Independent Panel. For completeness, a table is also shown of other roles to which the Independent Remuneration Panel allocated an SRA. The table shows the amounts paid to minority group members and an unallocated SRA post.

Conservative group members

| Position | Post Holder | SRA |
|---|------------------|--------|
| Chairman of the County Council | Mr Barnard | 20,265 |
| Vice-Chairman of the County Council | Mr R J Oakley | 8,060 |
| Leader | Ms Goldsmith | 31,664 |
| Cabinet Member for Health (and Deputy Leader) | Mr Catchpole | 22,798 |
| Cabinet Member for Children and Young People | Mr Hillier | 20,265 |
| Cabinet Member for Environment | Mrs Urquhart | 20,265 |
| Cabinet Member for Education and Skills | Mr Burrett | 20,265 |
| Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources | Mr Hunt | 20,265 |
| Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Highways | Mr Lanzer | 20,265 |
| Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities | Ms Kennard | 20,265 |
| Chairman, Performance and Finance Select Committee | Mr Montyn | 8,935 |
| Chairman, Children and Young People's Services Select Committee | Mr Cloake | 8,935 |
| Chairman, Environmental and Community Services Select Committee | Mr Barrett-Miles | 8,935 |
| Chairman, Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee | Mr Turner | 8,935 |
| Chairman of the Planning Committee | Mr Crow | 8,935 |
| Chairman of the Rights of Way Committee and Adviser – Environment (2 roles) | Mr Whittington | 8,935 |
| Member of Foster Panel | Mrs Arculus | 3,406 |
| Member of Foster Panel | Mrs Hall | 3,406 |

| Position | Post Holder | SRA |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Senior Adviser – Safeguarding | Mr Patel | 5,294 |
| Senior Adviser - Adults Social Care and Member of Adoption Panel (2 roles) | Mrs Jupp | 5,294 |
| Senior Adviser – Education and Skills | Mr Simmons | 5,294 |
| Senior Adviser - Infrastructure and Highways and Safer, Stronger Communities (2 roles) | Mrs Duncton | 5,294 |
| Adviser - Health | Mr Parikh | 3,406 |
| Adviser – Finance and Resources | Mr Jupp | 3,406 |
| | | |
| Number of SRAs paid to Conservative members | 24 | |
| Indicative Annual Total | | £292,787 |

Minority Group Members and unallocated SRA post

| Position | Post Holder | SRA |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Leaders of Minority Parties (amount depends on size of group) | Mrs Mullins | 11,026 |
| | Dr Walsh | 11,826 |
| Chairman of the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee | Dr Dennis | 8,935 |
| Member of Adoption Panel | Mr Oppler | 3,406 |
| 1 Foster Panel vacancy | | 3,406 |
| Indicative Total | | £38,991 |

3. Written question from Mr Oppler for reply by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Question

- (a) Following the redesign of the Fostering and Adoption services for West Sussex, could the Cabinet Member please give a detailed explanation of why in the financial year 2015/16 expenditure on agency staff reached a staggering £233,468.53, which was a 225% increase on the previous year? This sudden increase paints a financial picture of a department in crisis.
- (b) In the following financial year, there was a welcome reduction to £189,751.20. However, it is still an increase of £86,000 from 2014/15. Why is that?
- (c) I understand that the current workload for social workers is 18 for Fostering and 20 for adoption. However, does this include the necessity for social workers handling emergency cases and, if not, is there a monitoring of these additional pieces of work?
- (d) Could you also please confirm that adoption social workers are only involved in court work, when giving evidence in respect of potential adopters and not in preparation of the main case files?

Answer

- (a) When the target operating model for Children's Social Care went live in June 2015 there were a number of vacancies within the Service which required agency cover. The reasons for the vacancies were as follows: in order to increase management capacity and oversight of case-work within Children's Social care two new additional management roles were created – Practice Managers and Advanced Practitioners. Until some of these roles could be recruited to, agency managers were put in place. The second factor was that the Service was allocated additional social work posts in order to increase capacity to recruit and support foster carers, adopters and undertake special guardianship work - again until these were recruited to some posts were covered by agency. Finally, the re-design of the operating model created opportunities for staff to move to other areas of Children's Social Care, something we welcomed as it allowed staff to increase their knowledge and breadth of experience. Temporary agency cover was used until these roles were recruited to. Agency staff were also used to cover some maternity and sickness leave. The use of agency staff in the circumstances outlined here is appropriate and proportionate. We are pleased to report that as of July 2017, there are only two FTE agency social workers employed in this area of the business.
- (b) As outlined in response (a), the reasons for the increase in agency use from 2014/15 were as follows;
- Investment in additional manager and social worker posts in order to ensure robust management oversight and increase overall social work capacity and using agency cover until these posts were recruited to.
 - Managing vacancies created by staff moving to other areas within Children's Social Care.
 - Limited maternity and sickness cover arrangements.
- (c) The Director of Family Operations confirms that there is sufficient capacity within the Fostering and Adoption Service to manage the current volume of work.
- (d) I confirm that this statement is correct.

4. Written question from **Mrs Mullins** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

Question

In March this year I expressed concern at the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee about the spike in the number of exclusions for pupils in years 9 and 10. Officers confirmed at the meeting they were aware of an anecdotal link between schools seeking to protect their good results and an increase in exclusions of pupils in these year groups, a practice which is reflected nationally.

I would be grateful if the Cabinet Member could confirm in respect of maintained

secondary schools:

- (a) The difference between the number of key stage 4 pupils, recorded on the school census data, at the beginning of the academic year and the number that took GCSEs, in 2015 and January 2016; and
- (b) The number of key stage 4 pupils excluded from free schools, or academies, but which were added to the roll of maintained schools, or alternative provision, in 2015 and 2016.

If any of the data requested is not available can the Cabinet Member comment on these issues based on anecdotal evidence he is aware of.

Answer

There is no evidence to support the notion that children are excluded from West Sussex schools to protect the schools' good results. West Sussex schools adhere to the Department for Education's Statutory Guidance in regard to exclusions and their practice is monitored and advised by the local authority. Permanent exclusion should be a last resort and there are mechanisms in place to ensure that it is justified, legal, fair and proportionate.

- (a) The following table illustrates the number of pupils on roll (NOR) in Year 11 in the autumn term for maintained schools (excluding special schools, academies and free schools). A comparison has then been provided to illustrate the pupils shown in the Performance Tables as at the end of Key Stage 4:

| Year | Autumn term NOR | End of Key Stage 4 | Difference |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 2014/15 | 4,788 | 4,705 | 83 |
| 2015/16 | 4,800 | 4,697 | 103 |

There could be a number of reasons for these pupils no longer being on roll including moving out of area, withdrawal for elective home education and permanent exclusion.

- (b) The second table illustrates the permanent exclusions from academies for the year groups 9, 10 and 11. The pupils have then been matched by their unique pupil number through the school census to show the destination school:

| Year of Exclusion | Total | Alternative Provision College | West Sussex Non- Academy | West Sussex Special School | Other |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 2014/15 | 39 | 24 | 2 | 1 | 12 |
| 2015/16 | 38 | 24 | 4 | 2 | 6 |

'Other' refers to pupils who were mainly, but not exclusively, excluded in Year 11 and did not return to a West Sussex provision. Again, they may

have moved out of area or their parents may have decided to make alternative arrangements.

5. Written question from Mr Oxlade for reply by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Question

While we wait to see whether the Government will take any action to address the school funding crisis prior to recess having heard the message loud and clear from constituents during the general election and its own backbenchers, I would be grateful if the Cabinet Member could tell me more about the impact the funding crisis is having on maintained schools in West Sussex. In particular can he confirm in respect of the current academic year for (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools:

- (a) The number of teaching and ancillary staff posts which have been lost/deleted; and
- (b) Whether any subjects/courses/GCSE options have been removed from the curriculum or the offer for students reduced.

Furthermore, can he confirm:

- (c) What percentage of teaching staff across West Sussex have left the profession in the past five years?
- (d) The scale of the difficulty in recruiting both newly qualified teaching staff and experienced teaching staff;
- (e) Which curriculum subjects in particular Heads are experiencing difficulty recruiting to?
- (f) How schools are managing to cover the staff losses without impacting on the level of education offered to students; and
- (g) The impact on the provision of resources and equipment, and availability of extra-curricular clubs and school trips.

Finally, it is understood that all of the schools that became academies in 2016/17 closed with a surplus account balance compared with 26 maintained schools closing with budget deficits (twice as many as last year).

- (h) Can the Cabinet Member outline why he thinks academies appear to faring better than maintained schools during the current funding crisis?

If some of this information is not held, can the Cabinet Member give any view based on anecdotal evidence?

Answer

- (a), (b), (c), (f) and (g) – The County Council does not hold this information.

- (d) There is a national shortage of teachers which is likely to become more acute owing to the number of additional teachers that will be required as the secondary pupil population increases. West Sussex is in competition with its immediate neighbours for all locally trained newly qualified teachers (NQTs). Local authorities and individual schools are also competing for candidates for promotion posts. Teacher recruitment in West Sussex is particularly challenging as a result of low funding which affects schools' ability to recruit high quality experienced staff. In order to support schools in recruiting staff, the Education and Skills Directorate arranged a School Recruitment Fair in February 2017 at Fontwell Park Racecourse. Twenty-eight schools, academies and institutions had stalls at the event which was attended by over 300 individuals and was welcomed by school leaders. A further recruitment event is planned early in 2018.
- (e) A survey in May 2017 about NQT recruitment gaps for September 2017 showed secondary schools were recruiting NQTs for Science, Maths, English & Geography in the main.
- (h) There were six academy conversions in 2016/17. Three of these schools became sponsored academies and two of them had approved licensed deficit budgets with recovery action plans. Any deficit on conversion to a sponsored academy becomes the liability of the local authority. Officers worked very closely with the two schools prior to conversion to monitor expenditure and ensure it was incurred in accordance with the approved budget statement for 2016/17. The schools did not have a deficit on conversion. Of the 26 schools in deficit at the end of 2016/17, seven had approved licensed deficit budgets and were working to recovery plans. Thirteen of the 26 schools have set balanced budgets in 2017/18. Academies in West Sussex are affected by the same low funding as other schools and face the same financial pressures as well as additional charges from Multi-Academy Trusts.

6. Written question from Mr Jones for reply by Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Question

Members of the Performance and Finance Select Committee (PFSC) were first told about plans to review the CAPITA contract at a meeting in June 2015. One of the aims of that review was to ensure the contract still delivered best value to residents. Around the same time as the review Unison South East Regional office funded a time-limited research study due to concerns expressed by its members who had been TUPE'd across from the County Council to Capita and those internal 'customers' who were receiving services from Capita.

A follow up report was provided to PFSC in December 2015 which explained that having concluded the review there would be a re-set phase which would result in increased customer satisfaction and improvement as a result of:

- re-designed key performance indicators (KPIs);

- improvements to the partnership Governance;
- greater transparency and increased understanding of the services delivered within the partnership to customers;

Over two years have now elapsed since members were first informed of the CAPITA contract review yet there appears to have been no apparent conclusion to this extensive area of work (although it is appreciated with large contracts such as this there will be a continuous process of evaluation and flex).

Could the Cabinet Member therefore please:

- Provide an update on the work to refresh the Capita contract arrangements and advise when this work was/will be concluded; and confirm:
- Confirm whether he is satisfied the KPIs now in place enable the full value and any shortcomings to easily be identified and comment on the extent to which the current KPIs are being met;
- Confirm whether he is satisfied the current Capita contract arrangements now deliver best value for money for the residents of West Sussex;
- Provide details of the current membership of the Capita Partnership Board, and the extent to which it has recently been involved in monitoring the review, the re-set activity and the current Capita contract performance;
- Confirm the commitment made by the County Council and Capita to address the concerns highlighted in the key findings of the Unison survey have been honoured such that the key areas of concern have now been addressed, and that dialogue with Unison in relation to the Capita contract arrangements continues.
- Confirm how much the Capita contract review and re-set activity has cost the County Council in terms of external consultants and officer time, to date?

Answer

- The Capita Contract Reset you refer to was concluded in March 2016 and the outcomes were reported to the Partnership Board. The contract is now well into year five and a further and more thorough review of the contractual arrangements is underway, including a continuing dialogue with Capita. This will allow future flexibility to make variations arising from changes to service or corporate requirements instigated as a result of transformation and the financial pressure. A Cabinet Member decision is expected to arise from this further work and a Forward Plan entry will be published in due course, enabling early scrutiny of the proposals should this be requested by the relevant Select Committee.
- This led to the introduction of jointly redesigned 'fit for purpose' KPIs for each service area. This achieved a reduction in the overall number and provides assurance that they continue to drive the right behaviours and

focus on improved performance. There are 103 Key Performance Indicators that are measured monthly, quarterly and some annually. In the last quarter, January to March 2017, 25 KPI failures were recorded. This represented on average a 92% pass rate each month. The annual average currently stands at 92.5%.

- (c) The independent review undertaken in 2015 evidenced that the County Council had achieved good value for money and continued diligence around effective contract management has remained in place. Our drive to achieve value for money is an ongoing priority.
- (d) The Cabinet Member has temporarily put the appointments to, and work, of the Partnership Board on hold to ensure that it is consistent with the wider governance around member oversight of major contracts. The operational governance has continued and the Cabinet Member is regularly briefed on the work in re-setting the Capita contract.
- (e) Officers met Unison throughout the Reset phase and their report was considered as part of the actions which were undertaken within the Reset. The focus on customer satisfaction has continued to develop with surveys taking place regularly in all service areas and improvements responding to feedback being actioned where required. Unison will continue to be involved as part of usual staff engagement and consultation in connection with any changes that may affect staff.
- (f) The 2015 review was instigated in line with good practice and should be done periodically throughout a contract of this size. The contract review cost £174,000. All the activity was completed jointly with the full support and cooperation of Capita. The Reset activity was delivered through existing resources dedicated to the Partnership.

7. Written question from Mr Oxlade for reply by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Question

The Labour Group has been asking about the County Council's strategic assets as far back as July 2016. In January this year we were told previous work on the Asset Strategy had to be discontinued because it had become clear that the data gathering and survey work was beyond the scope of the previous exercise. However work on a new asset strategy had commenced in November 2016 but won't be concluded until March 2018.

I was however pleased to learn recently that it is at least clear how many assets the County Council owns. I understand it has interests in 2,235 plots of land totalling 5,526 acres; and has 948 establishments including a beach hut.

- (a) Please could the Cabinet Member categorise these assets and confirm what proportion of these (in percentage terms if nothing else) are:
- (b) currently empty; and

- (c) currently have security arrangements in place.

Answer

- (a) The current asset register lists 960 premises, the register categorises the premises as follows:-

| Asset Type | Number |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Agricultural | 68 |
| Commercial | 84 |
| Community | 106 |
| Development Property | 2 |
| Educational | 333 |
| Energy Asset | 1 |
| Fire Station | 26 |
| Library | 36 |
| Medical | 1 |
| Other Land | 95 |
| Recreational | 51 |
| Residential (including Care Homes) | 157 |
| Total | 960 |

- (b) Of the 960 premises owned by the County Council, 51 have vacant properties on site, which represents 5.3%.
- (c) Of the 51 vacant properties all have appropriate security arrangements dependent on the risk posed. Thirteen have contracted security arrangements. Others are locked up, boarded up or are on managed premises such as schools and office sites. Demolitions are being progressed on some sites to further address any Health and Safety concerns.

8. Written question from Mr Smytherman for reply by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Question

Further to my previous written question and the petition received by the Chief Executive before the County Elections, can I ask the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources whether he is minded to support changes to the investment policy of West Sussex County Council Pension Fund proposed by the Worthing Climate Action group that the Pension Panel include changes to the Fund to add companies involved in the extraction of coal, oil and gas to the list of restricted investments and that funds presently invested in such firms to be reinvested in clean alternatives to fossil fuels and other projects with positive environmental and social impacts.

Answer

The investment considerations taken into account by the Pensions Panel, when

deciding the investment strategy on behalf of the West Sussex Pension Fund, have been clearly set out in the responses to your two previous written questions, in February and March. However, we would underline the fact that the Fund's investment managers have signed up to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment. This has been set up by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, to encourage asset owners and asset managers to incorporate environmental, social and governance issues into investment analysis and decision making.

The County Council is also in receipt of a petition from the Worthing Climate Action Group relating to this issue, which will be considered by the Pensions Panel at their meeting in November.

9. Written question from Mrs Mullins for reply by the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Highways

Question

The Cabinet Member will be aware that since my motion was first tabled in December 2014 I have been calling for urgently needed action to be taken to address the parking issues that prevail across the Borough of Crawley. I was relieved to read the report of the Executive Task and Finish Group (TFG) that appeared in the 8 March 2017 edition of the Member's Information Service (MIS) which confirmed a Road Space Audit (RSA) for Crawley was seen as integral to the development of its growth programme commencing in the financial year 2017/18. Furthermore that edition of MIS went on to provide details of the timescales for preparatory work in respect of the Crawley RSA:

- March until mid-May – the 'discovery phase'
- Mid-March – brief the relevant County Council/Borough Council officers/members as to the purpose of this phase of work
- Early June – hold two separate workshops/meetings to present findings and agree a scope for the audit
- Mid/late June – prepare a detailed project/cost plan for a Crawley RSA

Although officers contacted Crawley members in May to advise the first stage of the study was underway and the consultant would be in touch with officers at Crawley Borough Council to ascertain the nature and impact of any studies/projects they are currently involved with in Crawley, we seem not to have made anywhere near the level of progress on this that was promised back in March.

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me:

- (a) How much longer the residents of Crawley need to wait to see some progress in addressing their parking issues in the form of the Crawley Road Space Audit;
- (b) What has caused this latest delay?
- (c) At what point Crawley members will become involved in setting the terms,

content and extent of the RSA?

Here is a link to MIS from March which published the TFG report and included an outline timetable:

<http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/ds/mis/mis080317.pdf>

Answer

- (a) Firstly I can assure Mrs Mullins, as well as the residents of Crawley, that progress is being made in seeking to address the parking issues across the town. The 'discovery phase' or the collection of data relating to existing projects/studies is underway and will be completed soon. The discovery phase is a pivotal part of the overall project as the assimilation of this information will enable us to put together a provisional scope for a Road Space Audit that will ultimately complement and benefit existing work by identifying an approach for remedying parking/transport problems in Crawley at a strategic level. Once a scope has been agreed, it will take more time, approximately six to nine months, to put together the full audit document, as a number of other crucial tasks need to be undertaken such as parking surveys, concept design and most importantly, stakeholder engagement. If and when an audit is fully supported by stakeholders, it can then be shared with the public.

I would also stress that the RSA should not be seen as a panacea to all of Crawley's parking and transport problems. Whilst it may seek to identify an approach for remedying such problems at a strategic level, it must be recognised that it may not be equipped to deal with localised parking and transport issues. Localised issues, such as changes to individual parking bays or yellow lines, new cycle lanes or pedestrian crossings will continue to be implemented through 'business as usual' functions at the County Council and would require more detailed consideration, conceptual design, feasibility assessment and modelling etc.

- (b) It has regrettably taken officers longer than first thought to fully agree the requirements of the discovery phase with the County Council's consultants, along with the associated resources.
- (c) It is envisaged that stakeholder events (including County/Borough Council members) will now take place in September, after the summer recess.

10. Written question from Mr Jones for reply by the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities

Question

- (a) In light of the horrific tower block fire at Grenfell Tower in London, can the Cabinet Member advise us if, in relation to tower blocks in West Sussex, the Fire & Rescue service has:
- (i) Ever made any recommendations to building owners, which have

not been implemented?

- (ii) Ever voiced concerns to planning and building regulatory authorities, which have not been acted on?
 - (iii) Reviewed fire safety in all buildings where upper floors cannot be reached with fire service ladders?
 - (iv) Reviewed fire service procedures for dealing with fires where the inbuilt arrangements to ensure people are protected have failed?
- (b) Can the Cabinet Member also please confirm for each tower block in West Sussex:
- (i) The number of fire engines and firefighters initially sent to any report of fire, or of fire alarms operating?
 - (ii) The time it is expected to take them all to arrive, if all fire engines are available?
 - (iii) The time it is expected to take them all to arrive, if fire engines that do not achieve 90% availability are excluded?
 - (iv) The date of the last full safety inspection carried out by WSFRS before the London tragedy?

Answer

- (a) (i) Generally building owners respond well to advice and guidance from the Fire Service. Where there is any resistance to recommendations for improvements, the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (WSFRS) works with local authorities, who have joint responsibilities, to reach amicable solutions. Where the building owners remain non-compliant, enforcement legal action would be taken.
- (ii) WSFRS will comment during the consultation phase of tower block alterations and new builds. It is standard practice to raise comments or clarifications as to fire safety standards being applied. For several years, WSFRS has included recommendations for sprinkler systems to be considered, but there is no legal requirement for this advice to be acted upon.
- (iii) WSFRS carries out operational inspections to all high-rise properties, to identify operation risks to firefighters whilst undertaking firefighting activities. From this information the Service generates tactical plans for reference at operational incidents via the computers in the fire appliance cab. This information is also used for training scenarios or operational exercises. The evacuation of occupants is a central feature of this assessment, which includes the progression from the 'stay put policy' to a full evacuation that can be initiated by the fire crews.

- (iv) We have not had a fire in a high-rise building where we have seen a failure of the fire protection measures. Every incident that requires Fire Service intervention is reviewed to ensure that the processes and procedures operated as intended.
- (b) (i) At high-rise incidents, where a fire is reported or where smoke is reported as issuing from the building, WSFRS send a full pre-determined attendance of the following: 6 fire engines, 1 Aerial Ladder Platform appliance, 1 incident command unit, 2 level-two officers (Station Manager) and 1 level-three officer (Group Manager).

The WSFRS automatic fire alarm (AFA) policy orders one fire engine to any activation of a fire alarm. This policy includes high-rise properties with the exception of Fitzleet House in Bognor. Fitzleet House has an unprotected stair well and therefore warrants a full pre-determined attendance for high-rise at any AFA within the property.

- (ii) It has not been possible to provide an answer for each high-rise building within the time available. Five different example locations have been explored in full. The examples chosen are:

- Fitzleet, Bognor Regis
- Kingmere, Littlehampton
- Manor Lea, Worthing
- Milton Mount, Crawley,
- Stockwell Court, Haywards Heath

The residential high-rise buildings in West Sussex are located in areas of concentrated population and served by whole time or day crewed stations. The majority are in Worthing.

Of the five example high-rise buildings assessed, six fire engines are modelled as all being on scene in 24 minutes or less. All would achieve the performance standards for Critical Fires 1st and 2nd appliances.

- (iii) Excluding fire engines not achieving 90% availability over the year 2016/17, of the five example high-rise buildings assessed, six fire engines will be on scene in less than 32 minutes. All would achieve the critical fire performance standard for the 1st pump. Three would meet the critical performance standard for both fire engines.
- (iv) Based on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 it has been agreed that the district and borough councils would take the lead with residential accommodation in Sussex, working with the Fire & Rescue Services where necessary. This has meant that the FRS has not routinely undertaken fire safety audits to residential accommodation premises.

To date, all 54 residential high-rise buildings that have been

identified have received a preliminary inspection with no serious issues identified. Seven full audits have now also been completed, with the remaining 47 to be completed over the next four to six weeks.

The main priority for proactive inspections in West Sussex has been residential and nursing care homes. This approach is risk-based and focuses on the most vulnerable in our communities being looked after in buildings that are compliant with fire safety legislation and where staff are trained appropriately.