

CABINET
16 OCTOBER 2024
MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Councillor Rob Willson

For as many financial years as there is data available, please can you provide the annual cost to Shropshire Council of the following:

- a. Motor vehicle insurance
- b. Damage to the road network and associated infrastructure caused by crashes and collisions

Councillor David Vasmer

Figures publicised in The Shropshire Star on 5th October suggest that over the last three years Shropshire Council has paid out £403,000 for repairs caused by potholes with the highest annual payment being made in the last year of 2023-2024 of £162,514.

Do records for spending in this financial year suggest that this level of spending has increased or decreased?

How much has the Council paid out in each of the last five years for pothole compensation and for each of those year's payments, in which year the damage compensated for was done.

Could, the Portfolio Holder, Cllr Dan Morris, confirm that Shropshire has the fourth highest payout for pothole compensation in England?

What action is the Cabinet Member taking to bring down the excessive expense of pothole compensation which the Council can ill afford in its current financial predicament? What learning has he found from other much higher performing Highways Departments to help reduce this damage to our resident cars?

Clearly the Council's Highways Contractor Kier should take responsibility for some of these potholes which are often caused by the failures of their repairs. Could Cllr Morris let us know how Kier is being held to account for this when the failure in their repairs is leading to claims for compensation?

Councillor Rosemary Dartnall

The new green waste system began on 1 October. On 4 October councillors learned substandard stickers had been sent to residents. A keystone of the system was the provision of stickers that identified bins belonging to subscribers who have paid an extra £56 fee. The stickers were supposed to be near-indestructible but proved to be far from it: they were peeling off in light rain.

It's welcome that officers and the Portfolio Holder acted promptly to rectify the situation.

Please clarify the following;

- Has the council recovered all costs for manufacture of the faulty stickers?
- Were all delivery costs paid by the supplier or were some costs paid by Shropshire Council?
- If delivery has cost Shropshire Council at all, how will these sums be recovered?
- Who pays for an unbudgeted, extra month running the old system?
- How will customers be informed of the changed operating dates for the old and new systems and how much will this cost?
- Will the supplier compensate the council for all costs and for the reputational damage associated with this very public error?

Finally, the green waste system was set to reduce significantly the council's costs under the contract with Veolia. A substantial saving is budgeted in this financial year, but, until recently at least, the matter had not been resolved. When will these multi-million pound savings be confirmed in this tight financial year?