

WRITTEN QUESTIONS – DECEMBER 2009

No	Date received & 9 wkg/day target to respond	Question by	Response from	Sent to Cllr	Published
1	<p>Received 16th December 2009</p> <p>Target response by 4th January 2010</p>	<p>Councillor Dr R L Evans</p> <p>The Council's Quarterly Performance Report presented at the Cabinet Meeting of 7th December 2009 referred to the Enforcement Notice which was issued by the Essex Fire and Rescue Service under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 following a Fire Risk Inspection of the Silver End Public Hall. Would the Lead Member please say whether Watch Manager Byatt in this instance issued a Prohibition Notice or an Improvement Notice ?</p> <p>Would the Lead Member also please confirm that the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 used by the Officer to enforce against the Council at the Silver End Public Hall is the same legal standard used by the Council's Fire Safety Officer during his inspection of the Rickstones Pavilion in January 2008 and referred to in his Report which recommended the immediate closure of the premises on the grounds of a significant fire risk ?</p>	<p>Councillor Walters, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability</p> <p><i>Some of the points raised by this question were addressed at the Cabinet meeting on 7th December.</i></p> <p>The notice was an Improvement Notice which required the council to produce a Fire Inspection report which was in possession of the Council but not immediately available at the time of the inspection.</p> <p>Yes – it goes without saying that all inspections undertaken by our own staff are to check compliance with the legislation that applies to the premises.</p>	05/01/10	05/01/10

2		<p>Mindful of the above statutory requirement will the Lead Member say whether the training referred to in the Quarterly Performance Report has been provided for not only Silver End Community Hall tenants but also for the members of the public who hire this Hall? Would he also say whether a programme is in place or has been prepared to ensure compliance with the above Order in the other Council Community Halls?</p> <p>The Quarterly Performance Report also informed the Cabinet of the 7th December of discussions to be held shortly with Health and Safety Inspectors, Officers of the Council and Members about health and safety leadership within the Council. Mindful of the requirements of Sec.2; (2. c.) of the Health and Safety Act (1974) would the Lead Member please say whether the identified leadership requirements include Cabinet Members?</p> <p>Would he also say whether the above discussions followed an initiative by the Health and Safety Inspectors and would he further say when the outcome of the above discussions will be brought to Members for comment?</p>	<p>The training provided at SECH was for Tenants to be informed of their requirement to co-operate with BDC as far as Fire Safety is concerned i.e. what information they are required to supply BDC with i.e. a copy of fire risk assessments, safety plans etc. Under the Act it is not our responsibility to train them in fire safety. They are under a separate obligation under the Act to implement their own training and testing regimes. Regular meetings have been arranged with Tenants to ensure that everyone is complying. We would not carry out training for members of the public. I can confirm that all BDC Community Hall Caretaking staff have received training in fire safety.</p> <p>Yes in fact all Members have a responsibility to promote Health & Safety within the council.</p> <p>“Leadership” in Health & Safety” is a key line of enquiry for the Health & Safety Executive this year</p> <p><i>Some of the points raised by this question were addressed at the Cabinet meeting on 7th December.</i></p> <p>Yes – A report on the inspectors findings will be made available via normal reporting methods.</p>		
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