

## Questions submitted under Standing Order 30

### Questions from Councillor Cooper

1. TDC have been employing Surrey County Council staff to overhaul the finance area at Tandridge Council during the financial year 2021/2022, continuing into the financial year 2022/2023. Therefore, please could you tell me:
  - a) How much money was paid to SCC, by TDC, to cover the services provided in the year 2021/2022 and what items in the TDC budget (stating the amount agreed at S&R) covered these payments.
  - b) How much money has so far been paid to SCC, by TDC, to cover the services provided so far this year, 2022/2023, and, again, what items in the TDC budget (stating the amount agreed at S&R) covered these payments. Also, what further payments TDC are expecting to make to cover further work, carried out this financial year, by SCC.
2. The total cost of the TDC Legal Services Department, including salaries (including support staff), office accommodation, equipment etc. for the last financial year 2021/2022, and the projected cost for the current financial year, 2022/2023.
3. There has been some concern about excessive use of external legal consultants, to supply legal advice/support, by the TDC Legal Department. Please could you tell me:
  - a) How much money was paid to external legal consultants, by TDC, to pay for their services in the year 2021/2022 and what items in the TDC budget (stating the amount agreed by full Council) covered these payments.
  - b) How much money has been paid to external legal consultants, by TDC, to pay for their services so far this year, 2022/2023, and, again, what items in the TDC budget (stating the amount agreed by full Council) covered these payments. Also, what further payments TDC are expecting to make to cover further work, carried out by external legal consultants, this financial year.
4. When TDC looks to employ agencies to carry out works/supply services, it is usual to enter a tender process to ensure that TDC do not pay over the odds for such work. Therefore, please could you tell me:
  - a) Which legal firms were used, by TDC, in the year 2021/2022 and the areas they dealt and why it was necessary in each case.
  - b) Which legal firms have been used, by TDC, so far this year, 2022/2023, and, again, the areas they dealt with and, again, why it was necessary in each case.

## Questions from Councillor Allen

1. At the Council Meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, I asked a question about paragraph 14.2 of the Debt Management policy which states that:

*“Aged debt profiles for review by the Executive Leadership Team will be provided monthly. Similar debt profiling reports will be provided to Council Members on no less than a quarterly basis. Monthly, or if necessary, more frequent reports will be provided to the Finance Business Partners.”*

My question was:

*Could I please be advised when, over the last 12 months, a “similar debt profiling report was provided to council members on (no less than) a quarterly basis”*

**Can it be confirmed that this is now being done?**

2. At the Council Meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, I also asked when, over the last 24 months, a discretionary payment to Chief Officers on their ceasing to hold office or to be employed by this authority was authorised by the Strategy and Resources committee. It came to light that this procedure had not been adhered to and the decision was being wrongly made at the Chief Officer Sub-Committee meetings.

I have noted that, at Annual Council on 26<sup>th</sup> May, this Council has changed the format for the future and that COSC will authorise such payments. However, as yet, I have not seen the matter of the discretionary payments coming before this committee to authorise those back payments so as to meet our own rules and obligations and to prove full governance has been retrospectively been put in place.

**Can I be advised when this will be done?**