

(iii) any implications for the maintenance of car parks and the Council's aim of providing safer and more secure car parks by upgrading a car park each year; and

(iv) implications for the parking control contract".

78. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

(a) Handypersons' Scheme

By Councillor Mrs J H Whitehouse to Councillor M Heavens, Portfolio Holder for Housing

"As the funding for the Handypersons' Scheme, which assists older people with minor repairs and falls prevention works, has not been increased since it was started in 1999, would the Portfolio Holder agree to review the funding of this scheme with a view to increasing the money available for the project and for staffing?"

Response by Councillor M Heavens, Portfolio Holder for Housing

"The Handypersons' Scheme is a very successful and important component of the Council's "Care and Repair" service. As the question states it provides a very necessary service to the vulnerable elderly in the District.

In general terms the demand for the service outstrips the resources available and this is managed by restricting individual requests for assistance and the level of financial support. This is therefore an appropriate time to review the service and its funding and I am happy to ask the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider placing this matter on the work programme for the Standing Scrutiny Panel on Housing".

By leave of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Housing added the following supplement to his answer:

"Although the budget for 2006/07 includes a DDF (one-off) increase of £3,000, I am of the view that more funds are needed".

(b) Waste Management Literature

By Councillor Mrs J H Whitehouse to Councillor D Jacobs, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Protection

"Are you aware of the literature which is being delivered in many parts of the District which says that you, as the Portfolio Holder, have "forced through proposals to impose £1,000 fines on householders who persistently leave additional black sacks as well as full wheelie bins" and will you clarify the situation as it seems that your report to Cabinet on 14 November 2005 has been misrepresented?"

Response by Councillor D Jacobs, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Protection

"I am grateful to the Councillor for raising this matter. I think it important for all members to understand the law and how it functions in this regard.