

Item 9 - Question Time

To the Leader of the Council

“You have expressed several times that the new Council needs to be more business-like and commercial and in fact this was a finding of the Re-Design Board. To this end, you have promised to form a cross-party Commercial Board. This has not yet been done and no meetings are scheduled. Please will you give me a date for the first meeting so that this Council has a chance of surviving future cuts by becoming more self-sufficient?”

Response to Ms M Smith

At the Council meeting on 29 June 2017, it was agreed to create a Commercial Board to deliver a step change in income generation and to lead and drive the following actions:

- Developing a five year rolling commercial strategy;
- Directing a portfolio of commercial, income-generating activities;
- Co-ordinating the Council's approach to income generation across all Services;
- Maximising the Council's income potential given our regional context;
- Growing new markets for Council services given our considerable infrastructure;
- Identifying and selecting appropriate models of service delivery and commercial vehicles for the Council to use (on a case by case basis); and
- Supporting the culture change required to operate more commercially whether at large or small scales.

The Commercial Board is of huge importance for the Council and it will have a significant role in shaping its future.

Nominations have been sought from each of the Group Leaders and work is currently underway to secure two external advisors with business expertise to participate voluntarily as non-executives on the Board.

It is intended to schedule the first meeting as soon as the composition of the Board has been finalised.