

Report to Council

8 November 2022

Subject:	Written Questions
Director:	Surjit Tour – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

The following written questions have been received:-

7(a) From Councillor McVittie to the Leader of the Council

What are the leaders thoughts on the current living crisis in Sandwell and the impact it will have on residents? Has any feedback been provided from local MP's on the current situation.

7(b) From Councillor Trumpeter to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth

I recently had the pleasure of dealing with a large notable funfair and leisure business. Their representative spoke to me in great detail about how they would like to relocate their business to Sandwell, and had even identified a derelict council owned plot which has now stood empty for more than 15 years. The operator wanted to bring this site back into full use for the benefit of both the public and the borough.

However, I was later disappointed to learn that they were rebuffed at every turn, with reasons such as 'ongoing strategic reviews' cited, which meant dialogue quickly stopped and the operator is now exploring other options.

Could the cabinet member for Regeneration and Growth reassure the chamber that we do want to encourage both new and established businesses into the borough? And what actions are we taking to ensure this happens, when it seems approaches are not welcomed.



7(c) From Councillor Dunn to the Leader of the Council

For the second time in only a few months, SMBC has been forced to apologise for contracts that have caused distress with some of the most vulnerable in our society. The first being the onerous clauses in the council tenants contract stating they would be evicted if they criticised the Council, and the second being that transport would be taken away from children receiving SEND transport, should their parents complain via social media. These climb downs have only come after massive public outcries against these heavyhanded measures. Is the Leader content that these errors in judgement continue to be made or does she agree with us in the Conservative Group that trying to deny the voice of the most vulnerable in our communities by threats of deprivation of service is morally wrong?

