

Public Question Time

Question submitted by Paul Savage

1. Bearing in mind that the site of the proposed Acle Bridge Visitor & Education Centre was purchased with ring-fenced navigation income for the purpose of moorings, would the Chief Financial Officer please explain how it is justifiable to use the site for a function which comes under the “recreation” statutory purpose?
2. Bearing in mind that any proposed development of the site will require planning permission from the Authority itself and consequently information relating to the financial affairs of a particular person (the Authority) is not “Exempt Information”, under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) will the Authority please disclose the report submitted under Agenda item 11 for the Meeting of 28th September 2018?
3. What reasons, if any, were given for the balancing exercise required for the claim of public interest in non-disclosure of the report?

(Statement:

For my interpretation of “Exempt Information” I am relying on the Guidance published in August 2014 by the Department for Communities and Local Government called “open and accountable local government: plain English Guide”. This is available on line.

Any planning application will necessarily entail commercial viability assessments under Policy DP 27, so it is difficult to see how non-disclosure of the entirety of the report can be justified by a balancing exercise.

The Authority’s response will be reported at the meeting