

16 April 2018

At 5.00 pm

Item 11 - Questions on Notice (with Answers)



Council

Sydney 2030 Green Global Connected

Item 11.**Questions on Notice****Dog De-Sexing Courier Service**

1. By Councillor Chung

Question

1. How many animals have been registered for this service, broken down for each year since commencement?
2. What was the total cost of this service for each year since commencement?
3. How is the service advertised?
4. How will the success of the service be assessed for 2018?
5. What key indicators will be used to trigger a review of the service?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Financial year	Number of dogs	\$ Cost
2007-2008	3	385
2008-2009	5	1,925
2009-2010	16	5,020
2010-2011	22	3,297
2011-2012	42	5,844
2012-2013	39	3,700
2013-2014	52	11,880
2014-2015	30	6,380
2015-2016	21	5,720
2016-2017	37	8,272
Jul 2017- Apr 2018	28	7,480
Totals	295	\$59,903

The cost of the service is allocated through funding received by the Office of Local Government through the City's pet registration rebate as part of the City's subsidised desexing program.

Subsidised desexing for City of Sydney residents on pensions or low incomes is advertised at Social Housing forums, through the City's annual Pet Days and the City's website. The Pet Taxi Service is only mentioned to the resident when they book their dog in for desexing.

As pets play an incredibly important role in people's lives, particularly when people live on their own, and as paying for veterinarian treatment is often very difficult for people in social housing, this is a very important service, which the City is proud to provide.

Cleansing in Woolloomooloo

2. By Councillor Scott

Question

I refer to the motion to Council in August 2015, 'Cleaning Up Woolloomooloo'.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. What progress has been made with regards to approaching the NSW Government to open discussions regarding the City of Sydney taking over cleansing services currently provided by the NSW Government in the area?
2. What, if any, measures have been taken by the City between August 2015 to present to ensure cleanliness and amenity for the community in Woolloomooloo?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

In March 2015, the City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) to strengthen the working relationship between the organisations to improve service delivery and service responses for social housing residents in the City of Sydney.

City staff continued to meet regularly with representatives from LAHC in 2016 and early 2017 to develop the specifications for a Service Level Agreement for the work that Council might provide in Woolloomooloo on behalf of NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC). The City is yet to receive the specifications.

In May 2016, a CEO Update was provided for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors that provided an update on 2015 and 2016. See details below.

2015

The City actively participated in MOU steering committee meetings and attended social housing and community safety group meetings when requested by FACS coordinators and the City's Social Housing Liaison Officer.

The City responded to illegal dumping on a daily basis and cleaned streets in the area seven days a week, with additional footway steam cleaning services provided at the intersection of Bourke and Flinders Streets on Saturdays and Sundays.

Thirteen separate mail-outs were distributed to residents and apartment buildings addressing concerns over illegal dumping, and explaining how to use the City's book a clean-up service, and how to correctly place waste out for collection.

A City-wide illegal dumping campaign was carried out to increase awareness of the City's free booked collection service to reduce illegal dumping. In total, the campaign generated over 13,000 unique page views to the website, a 200 per cent increase from the previous month. As a result, the City logged 3,765 pick-up bookings during the campaign, the highest monthly volume recorded. Bookings increased by 10 per cent on the previous month, and by 30 per cent on the previous year.

The City improved waste storage and waste education signage in 33 apartment buildings' bin rooms to improve waste presentation and recycling rates through the City's Waste & Recycling Improvement Program (WRIP).

The City quickly actioned complaints received about cleanliness issues at FACS properties by leveraging improved communication pathways made possible by the MOU to collaborate directly with the appropriate FACS and NSW Land and Housing Commission (LAHC) staff.

2016

Meetings commenced between FACS and City officers to consider regular street cleaning and dump removal services on FACS land under a fee for service contract.

Cleansing crews responded to illegal dumping on a daily basis and cleaned City-owned streets and footpaths across a seven day operations schedule.

The City conducted further education program activities to social housing apartment buildings and provided custom solutions for waste management challenges. This service improved waste infrastructure and educational signage for apartment buildings in the area to improve waste presentation and to encourage better recycling practices. Actions involved working closely with FACS Team Leaders and outreach officers to tailor the service on a property by property basis. Bins and signage will be installed or upgraded and recommendations made on any necessary upgrades of waste infrastructure or cleaning regimes at the properties.

2017/18

A framework of cleansing services was proposed by the City for LAHC to consider.

The City completed the improvements program for social housing apartment buildings. This included the upgrade of waste room signage and bins throughout Housing NSW properties in the LGA including apartment buildings in Woolloomooloo. Additional recommendations that fall within the remit of Housing NSW have been passed on to their asset management team for implementation. The City continued to support the implementation of these recommendations by working closely with FACS team members. Business as usual improvement work continued in this area and particular attention was given in response to waste service related issues that may arise. Solutions were coordinated with the relevant FACS team members and their cleaning contractor as needed.

Cleansing crews respond to illegal dumping on City-land on a daily basis and clean City-owned streets and footpaths across a seven day operations schedule. Resourcing has been increased to cater for seasonal peaks in cleansing services.

In 2017, information on the City's waste services were sent to various residents throughout Woolloomooloo on 12 separate occasions. The information was also sent to discourage illegal dumping and the misuse of bins.

Skateboarding Facilities

3. By Councillor Scott

Question

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. How much has been spent on skateboarding facilities in the City, from December 2013 to present, broken down by financial year?
2. How much has been spent on skateboarding facilities in the City, from December 2013 to present, broken down by project and by financial year?
3. Which skateboarding facilities have begun construction since December 2013?
4. Which skateboarding facilities have completed construction since December 2013?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Since December 2013, the City has developed an urban skate parks program, which identified two priority projects:

1. The Crescent Lands at Johnstons Creek, and
2. Sydney Park Skate Facility.

The City has finalised scoping reports and detailed designs in consultation with local skating communities, which has resulted in these projects being scheduled to commence construction in late 2018 and early 2019. To date, a total of \$1.6M has been spent in developing the scope and finalising the detailed designs for these projects. As previously advised, the Crescent Lands at Johnstons Creek project experienced delays due to design changes required by NSW Heritage Office, and the Roads and Maritime Services not providing owner's consent for the land they own.

The Council has also been briefed on the investigation of another skating facility identified in the program that will be located in Mandible Street, Green Square.

Council Owned Properties

4. By Councillor Forster

Question

Can the Lord Mayor please provide an updated list of all Council-owned properties including their occupancy status?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

This information will be provided via CEO Update.

5. By Councillor Forster

Question

In July 2017, Council resolved to endorse an Expression of Interest to identify entities with the expertise and capacity to reposition the City-owned investment properties along Oxford Street on a long-term ground lease. The timeframes stated in July 2017 suggested that the EOI was expected to be reported back to Council by early 2018.

It is now mid-April. When are the outcomes of the EOI expected to be reported back to Council?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

As advised to the Council in July 2017, the City is undertaking a two-staged procurement process for this exercise, commencing with an Expression of Interest. The outcome of this Expression of Interest will be a short list of entities to be invited to participate in a detailed request for proposals.

The City Projects & Property team has been working to complete a comprehensive due diligence exercise to support the Expression of Interest process and maximise the financial, community and urban activation objectives. The Expression of Interest is expected to open by mid-2018 and the outcome is scheduled to be reported back to Council by December 2018.

WestConnex Campaign Costs

6. By Councillor Forster

Question

To date, how much in total has Council spent on its campaign against WestConnex? Please provide details of the cost of facilitating public rallies in Town Hall and elsewhere, direct distribution and mailing of materials, production of brochures including newsletters from the Lord Mayor and Council which criticise the WestConnex project, as well as all grants given to WestConnex-related community groups.

Answer by the Lord Mayor

At the Council meeting in June 2017, funding of \$360,000 was approved for a campaign to inform people about WestConnex and its impacts, and to increase awareness of alternatives.

To date, \$250,915 has been spent.

Council has also approved seven grants totalling \$117,800 for WestConnex-related community groups.

Office of the Lord Mayor Campaigner

7. By Councillor Forster

Question

In 2017, the Lord Mayor advertised and subsequently employed a 'campaigner' as part of her office staff to fight the State and Federal governments over issues such as WestConnex and global warming. This position is no longer listed as being part of the Lord Mayor's office team.

1. What were the dates of employment of the 'campaigner' employed in 2017?
2. Has this position been readvertised and/or refilled?
3. If not, does the Lord Mayor intend to readvertise this position?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

A campaigner was employed March to May 2017. There are no plans to readvertise the position.

One-Off Special Event For Same Sex Couples

8. By Councillor Phelps AM

Question

I note the Lord Mayor's motion on 23 October 2017, to enable Town Hall to be used for a one-off special event in conjunction with the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, for weddings of such couples to be held on the first day practicable following the Marriage Act amendments becoming law and the Chief Executive Officer's subsequent retraction upon questioning that "the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages decided not to proceed" with this event.

1. I request that the Chief Executive Officer provide copies of the correspondence between the City of Sydney Council and the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages relating to this event, including the confirmation that this event was agreed upon to occur, as promised by the Lord Mayor.
2. Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide a timeline of the process undertaken to organise this event, including community consultation?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages was exploring the option of hosting a mass wedding in Sydney Town Hall, however the Registry chose not to proceed.

\$300,000 For 24-Hour Safe Space For Those In Need

9. By Councillor Phelps AM

Question

On 7 August 2017, the Lord Mayor, without Council approval, announced to the media that the City of Sydney Council would allocate \$100,000 each year for three years for a permanent 24-hour facility to provide shelter and services to people in need. Subsequent to

the Lord Mayor's announcement, the Council approved a total of \$300,000 to spend on the 24-hour "safe space" and provide temporary use of a Council property for an immediate interim facility, as requested in a Lord Mayoral Minute. At the time, a Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) spokeswoman said "there is no agreement in place with FACS in regards to the City of Sydney safe space, announced by Clover Moore."

1. What work has occurred to undertake the resolution made by Council to create a 24-hour space for those in need, in conjunction with the NSW State Government, as promised by the Lord Mayor on 7 August 2017?
2. Has further work been undertaken with Lanz Priestly who, according to the Lord Mayoral Minute, negotiated with the Lord Mayor "on behalf of the homeless people in Martin Place" to achieve a lasting positive outcome for people experiencing homelessness in Sydney?
3. How is the \$300,000, requested by Council for the 24-hour space, accounted for in the 2017/18 Budget and forward estimates?
4. If the \$300,000 cannot be spent as resolved by Council, how will Councillors be advised of this?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Family and Community Services (FACS) fully funded the extension of the existing service at the Wayside Chapel to 11pm. FACS are still negotiating for a 24 hour service.