

QDCC - November report – Cllr Lindsay Paterson

Some of the issues from the past few weeks include:

Waste services

Following on from issues raised by residents in Queensferry, and city wide, with elected members regarding waste collections, at Full Council on Thursday 20th November, the Conservatives tabled a number of questions regarding the waste service. The full questions, answers provided by the administration and papers for the meeting can be found [here](#). There were also questions on fly tipping and the related costs. Questions included:

Q. How many times have the refuse collection vehicles been unavailable for scheduled work over the last year?

A. For the period 1st November 2013 to the 30th October 2014, refuse collection vehicles were available for scheduled work 82.18% of the time. Over this period the total number of days, across all vehicles, was 14,235. The 'lost days' due to vehicles being off the road amounted to 2,536.

Q. What impact has this had on collection times – and how many delayed or missed collections have been caused by this?

A. The service is designed to have a margin of spare capacity (additional vehicles) to allow it to deal with vehicle breakdowns and also has the ability to hire vehicles if demand for the spare capacity is exceeded. Any vehicle breakdown has the capacity to impact on service delivery. However being unable to run a refuse route due to lack of vehicles is not a regular occurrence and data specific to this eventuality is not recorded. Recent records relating to refuse operations have been reviewed and one instance where a route could not run due to the lack of suitable refuse vehicle was identified. This related to a specialised vehicle, which serves the side loading communal bins, where it wasn't possible to source replacement parts at short notice.

As the new waste service continues to be rolled out it is useful to receive feedback from residents as to how this settles in, so issues can be raised with the department as appropriate or further questions tabled.

Neighbourhood Partnership public meeting

The Almond Neighbourhood Partnership held a public meeting at Queensferry High School on Wednesday 12th November. I formally stood down as Convener at this meeting and Cllr Shields was elected the new Convener for the next year. The focus of the meeting was the You(th) Decides initiative and a number of groups from the Queensferry area secured grants from the Neighbourhood Partnership to take forward specific projects.

Broadband

I have had a number of queries about broadband provision and quality in the local area and have been in touch with [Digital Scotland](#) regarding rollout plans. I have been informed that in the Scotstoun area, upgrades to the existing broadband infrastructure will take place between January and June 2015. The website also includes a new interactive map with more detailed information on rollout plans than was previously available.

Surgery

I hold my November surgery in Echline Primary on Monday 24th at 6.30pm.