

APPENDIX B

Meeting of Somerset County Council held in the Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Taunton on Wednesday 24 May 2017 2017 at 11.00am.

Written responses to questions to Cabinet Members

The following questions were asked of the Cabinet Members during the County Council meeting, who undertook to give written responses:

Written questions:

1. County Hall Restaurant

From Cllr Liz Leyshon

Could Council please have an explanation on the reasons behind the decision to use only disposable cups in the Café and why reusable cups are not available for purchase, as they are at, for example, Waitrose? I'm sure staff and members who use the County Hall Restaurant regularly would be happy to invest in one.

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

Many thanks for the question Liz.

As you know there is considerable interest nationally around the use of reusable and recyclable cups and mugs.

Following your question we have been in contact with Edwards and Ward who operate our staff canteen and I'm pleased to say they are now ordering a limited number of Costa reusable mugs. These will be the £3 red branded mugs and I will let you know when they are in stock so you can reserve your own. Staff of course are currently able to use their own mugs in the canteen.

In the meantime I have also asked the operators to look into a discount scheme to encourage take up of reusable mugs – hopefully a similar system to that which operates in Costa's own stores can be replicated in the canteen.

Many thanks for the question and I'm delighted to acknowledge that your question has prompted an immediate change in approach.