

**Appendix C to Council:
Questions During Debates
7 March 2016**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON
COUNCIL MEETING: 7 MARCH 2016
QUESTIONS: STANDING ORDER 8.1
QUESTIONS DURING DEBATES**

1. Question asked by Councillor Tim Crowley to Councillor Simon Wales, Lead for Finance and Voluntary Sector

It is noted in the budget papers that we are having to put aside £150k for additional electricity/gas costs to the council in 16/17. Could I ask what cost per KW/H we are paying as a council through our supplier for Gas and Electricity?

Reply by Councillor Simon Wales

The price paid by LBS for electricity varies depending upon meter type and consumption levels at each site. For half hourly metered sites i.e. larger sites such as the Civic complex and Denmark Road, LBS pays between 10.9 to 12.2p/kw for day rates, and 6.6p/kw for night rates. For non-half hourly metered sites, LBS pay between 10.9 to 11.1p/kw for day rates, and 6.7p/kw for night rates. Gas prices range from 1.9p/kw to 2.09p/kw depending upon purchasing strategy i.e. purchase in advance or purchase within period, as well as the volume and pattern of consumption at each site.

Supplementary question asked by Councillor Tim Crowley

Thank you Councillor Wales for your response. Can I ask, this has been a longstanding problem for the council going back the last, well since I've been a councillor really, when we decided to go with, it's LASER I think, isn't it, who are our purchasing provider as a futures broker in relation to buying electricity and gas. Have we looked at trying to purchase through, I don't know, MoneySupermarket.com or something like that? Because I think we'd probably get a better rate than we're getting at the moment and we seem to be able to tie ourselves into the highest possible rate because I can get cheaper rates than that on electricity and we're a company effectively, and we should be getting cheaper rates than that. Thank you.

Reply by Councillor Simon Wales

I'm sure officers are looking as closely as they can at all costs these days, mindful of the need to save money across every area of the council but I will ask them to look again closely.

Supplementary question asked by Councillor Nick Matthey

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Ok, we've invited Viridor to build an incinerator, they sell their electricity at 4p/kw hour, why has the council not secured some electricity from this company which has a very close relationship with, and why are we paying between 11 and 12.5p/kw for electricity when I can, with my very small business, can get a price of 10p/kw? I mean, this to me is sheer financial recklessness. Thank you.

Reply by Councillor Simon Wales

I feel that's a very similar question to Councillor Crowley's supplementary and I'll give the same reply which is that officers are looking at the cost of all utilities, everything we spend our money on, and I will ensure that they have another look at these prices as well.