

COMPARISON OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES AS THEY RELATE TO THE ABILITY OF MEMBERS TO ASK QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE ON EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OR MINUTES

COUNCIL	Council Procedure Rules	WHAT HAPPENS IN PRACTICE
<i>(Modular Constitution)</i>	<p>A) <i>(items of business at ordinary meetings)</i></p> <p><i>“receive reports from the executive and the Councils committees and receive questions and answers on any of these reports”</i></p> <p>B) <i>(Questions by members on reports of the executive or committees)</i></p> <p><i>“A Member of the Council may ask the leader or the chairman of a committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of executive or a committee when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.”</i></p>	N/A
Thanet District	<p>A) CPR 2.1(vii), which does not make provision for questions and answers ,states:</p> <p><i>“receive reports from the Cabinet Leader, members of the Cabinet and the Council’s Committees etc”</i></p> <p>B) CPR 14.1 restricts questions to Members’ speeches. Wording is:</p> <p><i>“A member of the Council <u>may during his or her speech</u> ask the Leader or Chairman of a committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of the Cabinet or a Committee when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.”</i></p>	<p>Council receives officers’ reports containing executive and committee recommendations, <u>not</u> minutes:</p> <p>Not customary for questions without notice to be asked by Members during their speeches.</p>
Shepway District	<p>A) Same as modular</p> <p>B) Same as modular, except with addition of the words, “relevant Cabinet Councillor”, as follows-</p> <p><i>“A councillor may ask the leader <u>or relevant Cabinet Councillor</u> or Chairman of a committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of the Cabinet or a committee when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.”</i></p>	<p>Council receives officers’ reports with executive and committee recommendations to Council, <u>not</u> minutes</p> <p>Members’ questions without notice not evidenced in the minutes of full council meetings.</p>

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Dover District	<p>A) Significantly different from the modular rule in that questions are qualified as being on “written notice”:</p> <p><i>“receive questions (on written notice) from members of the Council to the Leader and members of the Cabinet”</i></p> <p><i>“receive questions (on written notice) from members of the Council to chairmen or vice-chairmen of overview and scrutiny committees and chairmen or vice-chairmen of other committees of the Council.”</i></p> <p>B) There is no corresponding clause on questions on reports without notice.</p>	<p>Receives officers’ reports with recommendations, <u>not</u> minutes.</p> <p>Questions without notice on reports not provided for in the constitution.</p>
Canterbury City	<p>A) Rules refer to recommendations rather than reports:</p> <p><i>“receive <u>recommendations</u> from the Executive, and receive questions and answers on any of these <u>recommendations</u>.”</i></p> <p><i>“receive <u>recommendations</u> from the council’s committees and receive questions and answers on any of these <u>recommendations</u>.”</i></p> <p>B) Same as modular, with the minor exception of “Chairman” being substituted by, “chair”.</p>	<p>Minutes of executive, overview & scrutiny and committees received at full council meetings</p> <p>Recommendations contained within the minutes are for approval, and thus subject to debate.</p> <p>Resolutions on delegated matters recorded in minutes for receiving and noting.</p> <p>Members’ questions without notice on both recommendations and resolutions evidenced in minutes</p>
Ashford Borough	<p>A) Same as modular rule</p> <p>B) Wider scope for questions without notice than provided for within the modular rulez</p> <p><i>“A Member may ask the Leader, Member(s) of the Cabinet (Executive) or the Chairman of any Committee, or Sub-Committee any question on</i></p> <p>(i) Any matter then under consideration by the Council (without written notice) ...”</p>	As for Canterbury above.