

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Council	07 December 2023
Report Author	Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Leader of the Council
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

The Leader, Cabinet Members and Chairman of any Committee or Sub-Committee will receive questions from Members of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.

Recommendation(s):

This report is for information.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

There are no identified financial implications from this report.

Legal

There are no legal implications directly from this report.

Risk Management

There are risks arising directly from this report. It is however important for the Council to adhere to the constitutional provisions when processing Member questions to Council in order to maintain credibility of the process.

Corporate

Council Procedure Rule 14.3 affords Members of the Council the opportunity to ask questions of Members of the Cabinet at ordinary meetings of the Council.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and

(iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equality issues arising from this report.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Communities*

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 Council Procedure Rule 14.3 states that a Member of the Council may ask

- a Member of the Cabinet; or
- the Chairman of any Committee or Sub-Committee

A question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the district.

1.2 Council Procedure Rule 14.7 states that an answer may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral answer;
- b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated within three working days to the questioner.

1.3 A Member may, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.8, ask one supplementary question without notice to the Member to whom the first question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.

1.4 The questioner shall have two minutes for the initial question and one minute for the supplementary question and the respondent shall have five minutes for the initial reply and two minutes for the supplementary reply. (Council Procedure Rule 14.9 refers)

1.5 The total time devoted to questions from Members of the Council shall not exceed 30 minutes. Any question which cannot be dealt with during that time will be replied to in writing.

1.6 The questions received in accordance with the Council's constitution will be available to view on the Council's website:

<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/speaking-at-council-meetings/>

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Reporting to: Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)

Annex List

There are no Annexes with this report.

Background Papers

There are no Background Papers with this report.

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell, Director of Corporate Resources & S151 Officer

Legal: Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)