

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Council	22 February 2024
Report Author	Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Leader of the Council
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

The Leader and Cabinet Members will receive questions from the press and public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.

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.

Corporate

Council Procedure Rule 13 affords members of the public 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: -

- *To keep our district safe and clean*
- *To deliver the housing we need*
- *To protect our environment*
- *To create a thriving place*
- *To work efficiently for you*

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Council Procedure Rule 13 enables members of the public may ask questions of members of the Cabinet at ordinary meetings of the Council.
- 1.2 Any questions received in accordance with the Council's constitution will be available to view on the Council website:
<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/speaking-at-council-meetings/>
- 1.3 Under Council Procedure Rule 13.6, the Chair will invite the questioner to put their question to the Member named in the notice. If the questioner is not present, the question shall not be put and shall be answered in writing.
- 1.4 Under Council Procedure Rule 13.7, if the Member to whom the question is directed is present they will provide an oral answer. If that Member is not present, the question will be answered by the Leader or another Member nominated by the Leader for the purpose unless it is inappropriate for the Leader to give an oral answer or to nominate another Member to give an oral answer, in which case the question will be dealt with by a written answer.
- 1.5 The total time devoted to questions from the press and public shall not exceed 30 minutes. Any question which cannot be dealt with during that time will be replied to in writing.

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, Acting Deputy Chief Executive & S151 Officer

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