

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Council: 11 July 2024

By: Ingrid Brown, Head of Legal and Democracy and Monitoring Officer

Cabinet Portfolio Member: Councillor Everitt, Leader of the Council

Key Decision: No

Decision classification: Unrestricted

Call in status: No

Ward: All

Purpose of the Report

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.

1. Summary of Reasons

1.1 This report ensures that the Council complies with Council Procedure Rule 13.

2. Background

2.1 Council Procedure Rule 13 enables members of the public to ask questions of members of the Cabinet at ordinary meetings of the Council.

3. Relevant Issues

3.1 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/>

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

- 3.4 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.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Statutory Consultation is not required for this matter.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 Finance and Resources

- 5.1.1 There are no direct financial or resourcing implications arising from this report.

5.2 Legal and Constitutional

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The relevant provisions of the Council's constitution are referred to in the body of this report.

5.3 Council Policies and Priorities

- 5.3.1 This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *To work efficiently for you*

5.4 Risk

- 5.4.1 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.

5.5 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 5.5.1 There are no climate change or biodiversity implications to this report.

6. Equality, Equity and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 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.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications and Community impact

7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications to this report.

Subject History

Questions from the press and public are asked at every normal Council meeting, they are not asked at Budget Council, Annual Council or Extraordinary meetings.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Report Author(s) Contact: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Telephone: 01843 577208

Email: nicholas.hughes@thanet.gov.uk

Report Sign Off

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

Finance Chris Blundell (Director of Corporate Services - Section 151)