

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

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, Cabinet Members and Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee will receive questions from Members of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 14.

Recommendation(s):

This report is for information.

1. Summary of Reasons

1.1 This report ensures that the Council complies with Council Procedure Rule 14.

2. Background

2.1 CPR 14.3 states that a Member of the Council may ask

- a Member of the Cabinet; or
- the Chair 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.

3. Relevant Issues

3.1 CPR 14.7 states that an answer to a question asked under CPR 14.3 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.
- 3.2 A Councillor may, in accordance with CPR 14.8, ask one supplementary question without notice to the Councillor to whom the first question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- 3.3 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. (CPR 14.9 refers)
- 3.4 The total time devoted to questions from Councillors shall not exceed 30 minutes. Any question which cannot be dealt with during that time will be replied to in writing.
- 3.5 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/>

4. Consultation

- 4.1 There is no public law or statutory duty to consult in relation to 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 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*

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 Councillors are asked at every normal Council meeting, they are not asked at Budget Council, Annual Council or Extraordinary meetings.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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Report Sign Off

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