



Council Supplement – Items 5 & 6 – Public and Member Questions

Date: 9 October 2017
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber
District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe Bucks

Agenda

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5	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	1
	Written questions may be asked of the Leader or any Cabinet Member if submitted to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services no later than 12 noon on Monday 2 October 2017. Questions will be submitted in the order in which they were received.	
	A questioner will have a maximum of 1 minute to ask a question and the answer shall not exceed 3 minutes. Any questioner may put one supplementary question without notice within a maximum time of 1 minute and the answer may not exceed 2 minutes.	
6	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS	2 - 5
	Questions to the Leader or any Cabinet members must be submitted by 12 noon Monday 2 October 2017. Questions shall be taken first from the Group Leaders of the political parties who shall be entitled to ask an initial Leader's question, including the right to adopt another Member's question from his/her group, of which written notice shall have been given to the head of Democratic Legal and Policy Services prior to the meeting.	
	The order of questions shall then permit the first question from each other Councillor to be asked before any subsequent questions from the same Councillor. One question will be taken in turn from the	

same Councillor unless there are no other questions to be asked.

Every member asking an oral question is permitted to ask one supplementary question without notice provided that it is not substantially the same as a question that was put to a Council meeting during the past six months.

The appropriate Member will respond to any questions remaining unanswered at the expiry of 30 minutes in writing. Any question remaining unanswered after 30 minutes will be answered within 10 working days in writing after the meeting by the appropriate member and appended to the minutes of the meeting.

For further information, please contact Iram Malik on 01494 421204, committeeservices@wycombe.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 9 October 2017

AGENDA ITEM 5

Questions from Members of the Public

1. Question from Mr R B Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Environment

Earlier this year, travellers gained access to the old Sports Centre site at Handy Cross and managed in two weeks to deposit a great deal of rubbish on it.

Would the Cabinet Member please advise the tonnage of rubbish deposited, whether any asbestos was present and the cost to the Council of removing it and cleaning up the site?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Environment).

Agenda Item 6

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 9 October 2017

AGENDA ITEM 6

Questions from Members

1. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council

The Local Plan, as recently approved by the cabinet, identifies parcels of land which may be developed to provide much needed housing in the District. The plan may well be OK as a 'stand-alone' development, but there is no provision for improving existing inadequate infrastructure of roads, schools or GP surgeries; as although it is understood that new development will need to make provision to meet the needs of the new residents, the plan makes it clear that existing deficits or problems will not be made good.

In the circumstances, does the Leader agree that without addressing the existing problems the new development will only put more pressure on already choking roads, school places and make the lives of the residents of WDC more stressful?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

2. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Leader of the Council

Buckinghamshire County Council are currently consulting on plans to close 14 Children's Centres in our District. This comes after several years of services reductions and cuts to these facilities. These centres offer vital support to some of the most vulnerable young families in our District. The consultation ends on October 16th.

Is Wycombe District Council making a formal representation to the consultation?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

3. Question from Councillor M Clarke to the Cabinet Member for Planning

I note the second part of section 1d to Policy CP7 in the draft local plan states and I quote 'investigating the strategic case for a 'London rail bypass' that links East West Rail and Cross Rail via High Wycombe and Bourne End.' Has the portfolio holder, planning department or any appropriate member or officer enquired of the appropriate Central Government Department, Agency or Authority or the Office of Rail and Road about the practicability of reinstating around five level crossings over A roads and significant commuter routes?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor D Johncock (Cabinet Member for Planning).

4. Question from Councillor R Scott to the Leader of the Council

One of the Leader's key priorities is Housing; could she please update full council on progress made so far?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

5. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Leader of the Council

Does the leader agree with me, that covering the High Wycombe Swan logo Crest in the front of this building with a banner is basically disloyal, disrespectful and an insult to the town of High Wycombe.

I have mentioned this to colleagues at the Council but they have said it has to go in the middle to look aesthetically correct. However, do you agree with me that any banners should be offset so that it does not cover the High Wycombe town logo?

All you can see of it at the moment is the Swan peering over the top of the Wycombe lotto banner.

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

6. Question from Councillor M Clarke to the Cabinet Member for Planning

The Council has, I believe, committed to a strategic study in the feasibility of reopening the High Wycombe to Bourne End rail link for heavy rail. Their contribution being c.a. £100,000.

In the draft local plan there are several policy statements about repurposing the route of the permanent way between High Wycombe and Bourne End for use as a cycle and foot way.

Could this Council be told how much officer time has been used and money spent, i.e. the costs incurred, on these two mutually exclusive options for the existing route of the permanent way?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor D Johncock (Cabinet Member for Planning).

7. Question from Councillor A Hashmi to the Leader of the Council

Is the Cabinet member, with responsibility for council employees, aware that there is a clear lack of Black and Minority Ethnic People in the top ranks of the Council.

What steps are being taken to make the employees of WDC more reflective of the population this council serves?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

8. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Leader of the Council

Bucks County Council propose to replace all its children's centres and other support for children and young people with a programme to be run from 9 "hubs". The staff of the "hubs" will interview vulnerable children, young people and their families in the families' homes, local cafes and libraries.

[One of the 10 children's centres located within the Wycombe district is in Disraeli, my ward. Another is in the leaders ward.]

At the same time, BCC is cutting the budget for these services by £3.3 million. More savings will come from selling or leasing the buildings currently used by the children's centres. All this to be implemented by next spring.

These proposals with put our vulnerable children and young people even more at risk from abuse, neglect, and ill health.

These proposals are ill-considered and unprofessional.

Does the Leader agree that the proposals to discuss sensitive issues like disabilities, contraception, or criminal activity in a public places is a flagrant disregard for the right of privacy for our vulnerable children and young people?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

9. Question from Councillor S Graham to the Cabinet Member for Housing

Since housing and social housing in particular, is an important concern for a lot of people, mainly due to the policies of the Tory government, young people in particular are unable to have a foot on the housing ladder.

Would the Cabinet member for Housing like to tell us how many homes have been added to the local housing stock by red Kite, since it inherited the 6,000 homes from WDC in 2012?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing).

10. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council

Under the Local plan the need to meet the housing target in the next decade and half appears to have nearly exhausted all the potential sites for housing.

Does the Leader agree that we cannot bury our heads in the sand and need to be proactive in looking for solutions to the housing problem and in this respect is it not the time for the policy surrounding the 'Green belt' to be reviewed so that a tiny percentage of the Green Belt may be freed for housing? (I understand that as little as 1% of the Green Belt may be sufficient to meet our future housing needs).

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

11. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Housing

As the cost of private rent continues to rise and becomes further out of reach for those on Housing Benefit or even an average income the need for low cost social housing is higher than ever. Waiting for suitable accommodation of this type can take many years which frequently has a negative impact on family life, educational attainment and employment prospects.

What number of properties for social rent would need to be built in the Wycombe District in order to eliminate the current waiting lists and meet future demand?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing).