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**WYCOMBE**  
**DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Queen Victoria Road  
High Wycombe  
Bucks HP11 1BB

## Council – Supplement Items 5 & 6 - Public & Member Questions

Date: 16 April 2018  
Time: 6.30 pm  
Venue: Council Chamber  
District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, Bucks

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe on 16 April 2018 at 6.30 pm to consider the business set out in the Agenda below.

Ms K Satterford  
Chief Executive

**Fire Alarm** - In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the building quickly and calmly by the nearest exit. Do not stop to collect personal belongings and do not use the lifts. Please congregate at the Assembly Point at the corner of Queen Victoria Road and the River Wye, and do not re-enter the building until told to do so by a member of staff.

**Filming/Recording/Photographing at Meetings** – please note that this may take place during the public part of the meeting in accordance with Standing Orders. Notices are displayed within meeting rooms.

### Agenda

Item		Page
5	<b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b>	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 9 April 2018. Questions will be submitted in the order in which they were received.	
6	<b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS</b>	2 - 4
	Questions to the leader or any Cabinet Member must be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 9 April 2018. Questions shall be taken first from the Group Leaders of the political parties who shall be entitled to ask an initial Leader'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 6 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](mailto:committeeservices@wycombe.gov.uk)**

# Agenda Item 5

## WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 16 April 2018

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

##### **Questions from Members of the Public**

##### **1. Question from Mr R B Colomb to the Leader of the Council**

In light of the Secretary of State indicating that he is minded to approve a single Unitary Authority for Buckinghamshire, I would assume that the Leader has had a considerable number of meetings with the other District Council Leaders, who all support the twin Unitary Authorities approach as a more effective option since the Secretary of State's announcement.

Have they agreed to appoint professional expertise to put the case to the Secretary of State and also devised a plan to galvanise local taxpayers to lobby the Secretary of State in support of the twin approach during the consultation period, which I believe ends on 26 May 2018?

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

# Agenda Item 6

## WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 16 April 2018

#### AGENDA ITEM 6

##### Questions from Members

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

The initial decision of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the future of Buckinghamshire under a unitary system of local government is potentially devastating for WDC residents.

Is the leader of the council happy with her own inept and weak advocacy of a two unitary option for Bucks?

**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

This is what some residents of the Wycombe District said to me about the recent increase in Council Tax.

*"Increase in Council Tax but decrease in services. How is that fair?"*

*"I personally would rather a 1% increase every year than a 6% rise out of the blue."*

*"I have big increases this year on my bill. I am a single mother who works but struggle to pay and have fallen behind year in year out. Yet again I'm going to fall behind and they will charge me more. I will never be free."*

As Leader of the tax collecting authority how would you respond to these comments?

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

##### 3. Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Leader of the Council

In December 2016 several social care services, including Bucks Care, were brought back in house, after the county council said it "lost confidence" in the care provider.

Bucks County Council has now been accused of "not learning lessons" after it announced plans to cancel its contract with Bucks Learning Trust and bring the service back into the council offices.

I'm sure members here will agree with me that things in this local authority are not that squeaky clean either. Can the members be reassured that we have learned lessons from some of our ill-conceived practices and safeguards are now in place to avoid the misuse of public funds?

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

**4. Question from Councillor Abdullah Hashmi to the Cabinet Member for Youth & External Partnerships**

In 2015 the Leader made a big point of appointing a dedicated cabinet member for Youth, can we be told as to what this appointment has achieved in improving youth provision or addressing issues faced by the young & unemployed in the District?

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor D Carroll (Cabinet Member for Youth & External Partnerships).**

**5. Question from Councillor Ms A Baughan to the Cabinet Member for Environment**

There has been a real escalation in our Ward of dog fouling on pavements and green areas as well as open gardens.

The Penalty Notices are difficult to administer without proof.

The Dog Warden is extremely hard working and always responds quickly to requests to visit the area and phone calls.

With Summer on its way, this situation will get worse and poses a risk to children and vulnerable people's health and is generally really unpleasant.

What can be done about this situation as it is a District wide problem?

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

**6. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Cabinet Member for Environment**

During the recent Great British Springtime litter picking events, large areas of litter were cleared around East Wycombe.

It was apparent that some of these areas would benefit from having a litter bin in the vicinity.

Could the Cabinet Member advise myself and residents of the process for obtaining these bins?

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

**7. Question from Councillor S Graham to the Leader of the Council**

In view of the fact that we are going to have a unitary system of local government. Would the Leader accept that it is high time for a feasibility study about the formation of a Town Council with the necessary powers to deliver the essential services to the local residents?

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

**8. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Cabinet Member for Housing**

It was reported in the Bucks Free Press and read out in the budget report at last council that Wycombe District Council was recently awarded £273,000 to tackle homelessness.

It was stated that this would be split into payments of £40,000 each year for the next three years.

This comes to £120,000, for the three years; to help us understand would you please say how the £120,000 is to be spent and what is to happen to the balance?

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

**9. Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Cabinet Member for Environment**

Last year travellers left mountains of rubbish on former sports centre site of Marlow Hill and WDC had to fork out £41000 to remove tonnes of waste.

We read this week that travellers have moved a bit upmarket this year and they have set up camp opposite an upmarket Marlow health club. I'm sure the members would like to know what lessons were learned from previous incidents and the safeguards that were put in place as a result to avoid waste of more public funds in the clear up operations?

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

**10. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Leader of the Council**

Are you planning to hold a Local Governance review of your own volition, in light of the imminent decision about a Unitary Authority?

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

**11. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Cabinet Member for Housing**

We all recognise the efforts of our housing officers who do exceptional work to deal with the ever rising challenge of homelessness.

Could the leader or her cabinet member for Housing assure this council that they equally take on the issue of tackling homelessness as a priority?

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