

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

1. QUESTION From: Siriol Hugh-Jones

Home Office uses immigration detention as a matter of routine, although detention causes serious harm to detainees and their families. Nowhere else in Europe locks people up without a time limit and we detain more people. One of the biggest detention centres, Brook House, is just half an hour from here, at Gatwick. Many of our fellow residents live with the fear of the dawn knock on the door. As a City of Sanctuary, will the Council endorse the These Walls Must Fall Campaign and demand an end to indefinite detention?

Councillor Daniel, Chair of the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee will reply.

2. QUESTION From: Christopher Hawtree

Would Councillor Robins please tell us what steps he has taken, or will take, to reinstate the Mobile Library?

Councillor Daniel, Chair of the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee will reply.

3. QUESTION From: Ross Harper

At the Environment, Sustainability and Transport committee meeting on 27/06/17 chair Gill Mitchell welcomed a draft of changes proposed to Francis Street, councillor Pete West suggested an update report be produced after 12 months but the Chair added that measures would be kept under review. Over 6 months have now passed and no changes have taken place, the street remains unsafe after failing a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit in September 2016, why are residents and other road users still awaiting the much needed changes?

Councillor Mitchell, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply.

4. QUESTION From: Maria Garrett Gotch

Performance indicators such as cost, nightly usage, and refusals have been requested as recently as the Housing Committee, 17.1.18, and not provided. The Centre is one very small part of services provided for those who are homeless and it is not yet known if it has been successful or not.

How can one welcome an initiative without looking at its achievements and why be self-congratulatory yet make no reference to other initiatives and the wider involvement of the community?

Councillor Moonan, Lead Member for Rough Sleepers will reply.

5. QUESTION From: Jim Deans on behalf of David Thomas

I submitted a question to the last Housing Committee. The Chair refused to hear my question on the grounds that it was more relevant to another committee.

Part 8.9 of the Constitution is the Protocol for Public Questions at Committees. There is no provision in it for any such refusal. A question may be rejected if it is on a matter for which the committee has *no* responsibility; there is nothing else on relevance.

Public Questions are to hold a committee to account. Will Members agree to examine the validity of the Chair's action to prevent them from hearing such questions?

Councillor Meadows, Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee will reply.