

Council – 21 January 2021

Schedule of written responses to Members' questions not answered at the meeting

Items

10 Members' questions

(Pages
3 - 4)

For further information please contact Wayne Hemingway, Interim Head of Democratic Services on Telephone: 01634 332509 or Email: democratic.services@medway.gov.uk

Date: 26 January 2021

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda reference	Question	Response
10K	<p>Councillor Howcroft-Scott asked the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles, the following:</p> <p>“Following the numerous examples of woefully inadequate food parcels sent to children who qualify for free school meals, by private companies such as Chartwells, part of the multi-billion revenue food service giant Compass Group, does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that more must be done to ensure that all children requiring term-time free school meals receive nutritious parcels or vouchers as opposed to financially benefiting large corporations?”</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Councillor Howcroft-Scott. Yes, of course all pupils eligible for benefits related Free School meals should receive appropriate nutritious food.</p> <p>We have been working with the various caterers who service our schools to highlight issues and resolve them appropriately. The Government has now put into place a voucher scheme so that schools can choose to make use of these or provide the food themselves in the form of food parcels.</p> <p>Medway Council has utilised part of the Covid Winter Support Grant to provide food hampers over the Christmas period and will be providing food or hampers during the February half term to those pupils eligible for benefits related free school meals.</p>

<p>10L</p>	<p>Councillor Pendergast asked the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:</p> <p>“Flooding has a devastating impact on people and communities” was one of the opening lines in Councillor Filmer’s introduction to the July 2014 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p>The Medway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is dated 2006 and clearly now out of date, as are the Flood Risk Management Strategy and Surface Water Management Plan.</p> <p>Recently, many areas of Medway were subjected to flooding, but once again rural villages were particularly hardest hit with Stoke village virtually afloat and Hoo suffering from the continued policy of building houses regardless.</p> <p>As part of the response, Flood Drainage Officer, Priscilla Haselhurst, has been outstanding with her hands-on approach and willingness to try and find a solution to the problems.</p> <p>Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that as part of finding a solution to this problem, these plans and assessments will now be urgently updated, with the added bonus that updated and accurate flood maps may cause some developers to abandon plans to build in and around Hoo and other rural locations such as Cliffe and Cliffe Woods?”</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Councillor Pendergast. I can totally understand the reasons for this question having observed the difficulties in many parts of Medway, but particularly the areas mentioned by Cllr Pendergast, caused by the recent heavy rainfall.</p> <p>He is right in his praise of our Flood and Drainage Officer who responded quickly, attended a meeting of the Parish Council and has been investigating the causes of the flooding problems and what can be done to limit such events in the future.</p> <p>The Medway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has recently been updated. A Surface Water Management Plan has been completed which considers the development scenarios considered as part of the Development Strategy Consultation. Both these documents are subject to further review as part of the ongoing Local Plan process and will be presented to Members as part of a flood risk evidence base for formal review and adoption alongside the Local Plan.</p> <p>I am aware there are areas sensitive to flooding, demonstrated most recently with the flooding experienced in Stoke and Hoo and within some areas in Cliffe. Any development proposal will need to be carefully considered in this context, taking account of wider objectives that will come forward through the emerging Local Plan.</p> <p>Our investigations into the flooding issues are ongoing, and we are aware that Stoke in particular is an area which has experienced flooding more frequently in recent times. We will be working with Southern Water, our Highways Service and residents via the Parish Council to investigate options to reduce the impacts of flooding.</p>
-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Democratic Services

26 January 2021