

COUNCIL

26 APRIL 2012

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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Summary

To set out the public questions received for this meeting.

1. Background

1.1 Section 8.3 of the Council Rules, as laid out in the Council's constitution, sets out the rules for the receipt of public questions as follows:

- At any one meeting no person may submit more than two questions and no more than two questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation. Members of the public who have not submitted questions before will be given priority over those who have, and second questions will only be dealt with when all first questions have been dealt with. Any questions that have not been dealt with within the time limits will receive a written reply after the meeting.

1.2 The questions received for this meeting are set out in below in the order they were received, allowing for the rules above.

2. Public questions

2.1 **Edward Richmond of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following question:**

Could the Portfolio Holder tell me how much Medway Council has spent on Chatham Town Football Club over the last 15 years, including a breakdown of exactly where this money has gone?

2.2 **Jon Primett of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following question:**

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm the current legal status of Luton Millennium Green?

2.3 Lewis Bailey of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Is the Council satisfied that by offering the Medway Youth Pass, they are doing enough to help Medway families with their children's school travel costs, even though the most that a family will save is just £2 per month if using Arriva Buses, because the minimum bus fare is £1.20 for a single journey, £2.40 for a return journey, £12 for a weekly bus pass, or £48 for a monthly bus pass, when using the Kent Youth Pass?

2.4 Emma Bailey of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Does the Council offer any help or support with travel costs to families who have two or more children who each use more than one bus to travel to school, and therefore receive no benefit whatsoever from using the Medway Youth Pass; or does the Council think that it is reasonable for that family to pay £50 for each child, every four weeks for their bus passes; that is, £100 every four weeks for two bus passes for two children; or £150 for three bus passes for three children, etc?

2.5 Amelia Bailey of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

What does the Council intend to do in the immediate future to help the majority of children who do not benefit at all from using the Medway Youth Pass, because they have to use more than one bus to travel to school, and therefore find it cheaper to buy an adult-priced bus pass, because Arriva Buses do not issue a cheaper equivalent child bus pass?

2.6 Venetia Iga of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Why is it more expensive when using Arriva Buses, to buy a "child bus pass", which restricts travel to stated buses only for that particular journey, and cannot be used on any other buses within either the Medway Zone or Inner-Medway Zone; than it is to buy an adult bus pass, which offers unrestricted access to all Arriva buses in the whole of either the Medway Zone or Inner-Medway Zone?

2.7 Lorna Barker of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Does the Council think that it is reasonable, for example, that in order to take advantage of the Kent Youth Pass, children are expected to board school buses as early as 7am in the morning; and then to stay on those buses for sometimes up to an hour or more before arriving at schools; for example in Gillingham, some 11 and 12 year old children are expected to walk past Gillingham Station or Gillingham Football Ground on dark winter mornings, to catch the bus which leaves the Arriva Bus Garage at 7am, because the bus does not pass through Gillingham Town Centre but

travels to Rainham Mark, then through to Wigmore, Parkwood, Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, Luton, North Dane Way, Lordswood Shopping Centre, Princes Park (Morrisons), Huntsman's Corner, Walderslade, Mid-Kent College, and Thomas Aveling School, before finally at the Rochester Grammar Schools?

2.8 Jordan Iga of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Is the reason that children are expected to catch a school bus at 7am in the morning, and to stay on that bus for up to an hour or more, because the Council provide too few buses to cover too large an area, resulting in bus journeys being unreasonably long, and, by the end of the journey, often over-crowded?

2.9 George Bailey of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Is the Council aware that if a child in Medway travels to school using two buses, the cheapest option for them is to buy an adult-priced bus pass which costs £50 for four weeks, and that that price applies to all children in primary and secondary school, from the age of five, up until their sixteenth birthday?

2.10 Jon Primett of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm how road resurfacing that was supposed to happen in 2011/12, e.g. The Fairway, has been moved to the budget year 2012/13 again, and whether he believes the Council should be more transparent with the public on timescales on resurfacing?

2.11 Lewis Bailey of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Can the Council please explain why is it that students and staff at Medway Universities pay at least one-half of the prices that children who live in Medway pay for their travel passes, and they have access to the whole of the Kent Zone; whereas Medway children, who pay the full adult price for their bus passes, do not have access to the whole of the Kent Zone, but to either the Medway Zone only or to the Inner-Medway Zone only?

2.12 Emma Bailey of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Does the Council think it is fair that of three children sitting in the same classroom in a Medway school, the child that lives in Medway could be paying the highest cost for their travel to school (a difference of at least £350 per year); even though the distance travelled could be far less than that travelled by the other two children, because the Medway child uses Arriva bus passes and/or the Medway Youth Pass, whereas the other

children might use either PlusBus or the Kent Freedom Pass?

2.13 Amelia Bailey of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Why do I have to pay the same price as my parents for an adult bus pass to travel to school, whereas a child in other parts of Kent can buy a substantially reduced child bus pass?

2.14 Venetia Iga of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Why do children have to pay for their travel to school, making Medway the most expensive town for children's travel in Kent, whereas in London, children's travel is free, and in the rest of Kent, cheap travel is available for £100 per year when using the Kent Freedom Pass?

2.15 Lorna Barker of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Is the Council aware that PlusBus monthly passes, which include bus and train travel, are calculated on a "calendar month" basis, and offer much cheaper travel, than the monthly Arriva Bus passes for adults, which are calculated on a four-weekly basis, and can be used on buses only?

2.16 Jordan Iga of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Could the Council please tell me the numbers of people who have expressed that they would like to use, or have previously used, public transport to travel to school, the number of children who do not use public transport to travel to school, and the reasons given why they do not use, or are no longer using public transport to travel to school – particularly buses?

2.17 George Bailey of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:

Can the Council please tell me if they have surveyed the number of children who use, are expected to use, or have expressed an intention to use, public transport to travel to school, and what type of transport they do use, are expected to use, or have expressed an intention to use?

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Background papers

None