

Public Questions

Question A - Alan Stockey of Rainham will ask the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:

Given all the focus on air quality and the current concerning state in Four Elms Hill, I want to ask why there is no reference to air quality in section 11 of the Climate Change Action Plan - Resilience, which currently focuses exclusively on flood and extremes of temperature?

Question B - Louise Smith of Rochester will ask the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:

I note with amazement that despite thousands of people being on the Medway housing waiting list, that properties in Chatham Waters and Rochester Riverside are currently being advertised in Hong Kong by Peel and Countryside Partnership. The Chatham Waters development was reported by the Medway Messenger on 2nd April.

It is therefore shocking that the position of this Council's leadership is to lose hundreds and hundreds of quality jobs to build more properties to be bought by investors in the Southern Hemisphere not by Medway residents.

Will the Portfolio Holder confirm she still wants hundreds of jobs lost with the housing being bought by individuals overseas, depriving local people of both employment and homes?

Question C - Karen Turner of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services – Lead Member, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles, the following:

I am a teaching assistant in a Medway school. Support staff like myself have worked hard throughout the pandemic supporting the education of children and enabling other key workers to continue doing their vital jobs. Medway Council has miscalculated holiday pay for term time only workers for many years, yet you are offering Medway staff (like myself) just half of what was given to Kent workers over the same issue.

Why did you clap us during the pandemic and now think we are only worth half of what our colleagues in Kent received?

Question D - Vivienne Parker of Chatham will ask the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:

What can the Council do to stop people waiting outside Balfour Infants School leaving their car engines running for up to 10 minutes, waiting for their children to come out?

Question E - Satinder Shokar of Rochester will ask the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:

The third sector has been taking on a greater burden due to the pandemic and will now also have the cost of living crisis presenting it with more and more challenges. The sector is already desperate for more funding, so this is a matter of great urgency.

Will the Council be able to help by increasing funding for these organisations?

Question F - Bryan Fowler of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships, Councillor Rodney Chambers OBE the following:

In the recent Medway Matters magazine, it states how residents gave their views on proposals about how the Paddock area could be landscaped, including planting and a fountain.

What were the outcomes of the survey regarding the proposal to level the Paddock and to install a water fountain?

Question G - Kate Belmonte, on behalf of Medway Green Party, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:

The Office for National Statistics, a non-ministerial Government Department, conducted the latest ten yearly National Census in 2021. The Census results have demonstrated, clearly and conclusively, that we only need half the houses currently being demanded by Central Government.

On 14 February 2022, our Housing Advisor, Bernard Hyde Dip Arch RIBA Dip, sent Councillor Jarrett a copy of a parliamentary briefing document, from the House of Commons Library, on 'calculating housing need'.

Is Medway Council, now planning to live in the real world of up-to-date population data or continue with housing proposals that risk our food security, precious green spaces and internationally protected nature reserves on the Hoo Peninsula?

Question H - Kate Belmonte of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:

The air quality throughout Medway is regularly affecting the health of our residents, with readings often exceeding not only WHO limits but also our own governmental targets. There are a number of ways to tackle this health crisis but one of the definitive ways is to reduce the number of cars on our roads. Parents transporting their children to/from school using cars not only increases air pollution but also makes roads more dangerous for those families trying to reduce their carbon footprint and improve their physical health by walking/cycling.

In order to increase the number of parents, children and youths walking and cycling to/from school and thus reducing the of number of cars on our roads, will the Council commit to introducing 20mph speed limit zones across Medway during the hours of 8am - 9am and 3pm - 4pm, thus making it safer for our citizens.

Question I - James Braithwaite, on behalf of GMB Medway Branch, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services - Lead Member, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles, the following:

GMB term time only members have, by a significant margin, voted against Medway Council's pitiful offer of just two weeks compensation for miscalculation of holiday pay. Why are the Council insisting on imposing the offers and not returning to the negotiation table?

Question J - Bernard Hyde of Rochester will ask the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:

In view of the latest very concerning report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, will Medway Council now work with their partners in the South Thames Building Control Partnership (Canterbury City Council, Gravesham Borough Council and Swale Borough Council) to bring forward the Future Homes Standards on all new buildings with immediate effect?

The IPCC report clearly indicates that time is fast running out and we need to take action now, before it is too late.

Question K - Linda Taylor of Gillingham will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett, the following:

Following Councillor Chitty's offer made at the Council meeting on the 7th October 2021 to use Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers at Chatham Docks, what steps have been undertaken by Medway Council to respond to the letter from Dentons, dated 25th November 2021 and the follow-up from Dentons on the 14th January 2022, both addressed to Councillor Jarrett and Chief Executive, Neil Davies, to investigate this opportunity?