

**Full Council 19 January 2023 – Schedule of written responses to
Members' questions not answered at the meeting**

Agenda Reference	Question	Response
10J	<p>Councillor Khan asked the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, Councillor Hackwell, the following:</p> <p>Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that every polling station will have at least one female member of staff available from 7am to 10pm on May 4th for checking voter identification recognising sensitivities that may require a female member of staff to carry out the check?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question Councillor Khan.</p> <p>The Electoral Services team are contacting existing election staff about their availability for the Local and Parish elections on 4 May at the moment and calculating the number of staff required at each polling station taking into account the new voter ID requirements, historic and expected turnout amongst other factors. As far as possible, a female member of staff will be available at each polling station to assist voters who request to have their voter ID checked by a female member of staff if they have to remove head coverings, for example. If it is not possible to put this into place, it is intended that female polling station inspectors will be given delegated authority by the Returning Officer to carry out these checks. This is in line with Electoral Commission guidance which is not mandatory.</p>
10K	<p>Councillor Mahil asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin, the following:</p> <p>In the proposal for the redevelopment of the open space at The Paddock in Chatham, does the Portfolio Holder have any idea what the annual maintenance costs will be, especially for the proposed water feature?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Cllr Mahil.</p> <p>I can confirm that the estimated maintenance costs have been identified to cover: water, electricity, cleaning and maintenance for the Paddock, including the water feature. The maintenance contract is yet to be procured and awarded, and when it is, the actual costs will be finalised.</p>

<p>10L</p>	<p>Councillor Cooper asked the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:</p> <p>When does the Council expect to have a fully operational, affordable ULE/electric bus service operating in Medway?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Councillor Cooper.</p> <p>At the moment, we do not have a clear indication from our bus operators as to when electric buses will be incorporated into the fleets they operate in Medway. We will continue to discuss this with them as they consider their business case for the transition to electric buses, and also seek out any opportunities for external funding to support this.</p> <p>Arriva is expecting to introduce six of the latest Ultra Low Emissions buses (Euro VI) on the 145 route in the next few weeks, and phase out some of the oldest Euro III buses. This will mean that most buses operating in Medway will be Euro V or Euro VI and, whilst there is scope to improve further, good progress is being made with lowering the overall age of the fleet.</p>
<p>10M</p>	<p>Councillor Van Dyke asked the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:</p> <p>In its response to the Hoo Development Framework consultation, the Medway Labour and Cooperative Group proposed that priority should be given to the establishment of an electric bus service from the new developments at Hoo into Strood Station.</p> <p>Does the Portfolio Holder agree with this new sustainable approach for the developments in Hoo, in the interests of Medway's businesses, community and environment?</p>	<p><i>Note: Due to question content, this response has been provided by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty.</i></p> <p>Thank you for your question, Councillor Van Dyke.</p> <p>I am indeed very supportive of sustainable development. That means many things, but includes consideration of the way we move about Medway. Any development anywhere in Medway, including out at Hoo or on the Peninsula must be considered in terms of its sustainability. As work proceeds on the Local Plan, we will be very carefully considering how we can deliver sustainable transport, linked to development allocations. The outcomes from the Hoo Development Framework consultation will be reported shortly.</p>

<p>10N</p>	<p>Councillor asked the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:</p> <p>It is important that properties on our High Street are kept in good condition in order not to damage the appearance of our shared town centre space.</p> <p>Could the Council please write to the owners of properties on Gillingham High Street who are failing to maintain their properties to a sufficient standard (such as 122-124 High Street, Gillingham) to remind them of the importance of a clean town centre?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Councillor Price.</p> <p>I will pass on your request to my team.</p>
<p>10O</p>	<p>Councillor McDonald asked the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, Councillor Brake, the following:</p> <p>Will Chatham Town Centre ever get a healthy living centre?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Cllr McDonald.</p> <p>We are striving to deliver a Healthy Living Centre on the first floor of the Pentagon Centre, within our City Centre. The benefits of a Healthy Living Centre in this central and easily-accessible location are clear, not just from a health perspective but also from the increased footfall and positive impact for businesses and retailers.</p> <p>The delivery of the Healthy Living Centre is a partnership project with the NHS. As such, the Council has done and continues to do everything it can to support the delivery of the HLC in the Pentagon. That work continues, and the progress of the Healthy Living Centre into the construction phase is subject to the NHS's internal authorisation process and agreement of terms.</p>