

Members' Questions

Question A – Councillor Hamilton will ask the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, Councillor Van Dyke, the following:

Have our HR policies ever allowed elected Members — under any administration — to unilaterally override staff contracts or working conditions outside proper processes?

Question B – Councillor Jackson will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

Can the Leader confirm whether it would be legal for this Council to pass a budget which would deny young people with support like driving lessons or education access based on their immigration status or background, as Reform UK have recently suggested, on the basis that Medway Council has a statutory duty of care to young people who are in our care until the age of 25?

Question C – Councillor Myton will ask the Chairperson of the Employment Matters Committee, Councillor Mark Prenter, the following:

If Medway Council attempted to give different pay awards to staff based on whether they are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme — as Reform UK have suggested — would that be legal under UK employment law?

Question D – Councillor Nestorov will ask the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, Councillor Van Dyke, the following:

If Medway followed Reform UK's dogmatic position and ended all working from home — what would be the operational and legal consequences for our workforce?

Question E – Councillor Cook will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

If Medway Councillors promised residents that we would ban staff from working from home, would we be breaching employment law?

Question F – Councillor Howcroft-Scott will ask the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, Councillor Van Dyke, the following:

If a Medway "DOGE team" tried to demand HR files or attempted to discipline officers without following policy, would that be lawful?

Question G – Councillor Shokar will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

Would you ever co-sign a letter with the Leader and Chair of the Labour Party — threatening Medway Council staff if they didn't hand over sensitive information to the Labour Party Chair and other prominent Labour Party donors, particularly, if these hypothetical Labour Party donors had already in the past been fined over £100k by the Information Commissioner's Office for illegally sharing and using data for political campaigning?

Question H – Councillor Stamp will ask the Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Councillor Browne, the following:

Has Medway's Audit Committee ever received advice or evidence suggesting that politicising audit, as Reform UK proposes, could improve governance or protect taxpayers?

Question I – Councillor Campbell will ask the Chairperson of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Councillor Murray, the following:

Reform UK Councillor Linden Kemkaran recently said of the possibility of replacing classes in adult education centres up and down the county that are teaching English as a second language with the Duolingo app, 'If I don't think that's value for money, it's going. Simple as that.'

Can the Chairperson of the Health and Wellbeing Board confirm whether the health benefits of helping residents learn English, for example, improving health outcomes, as well as social and economic benefits such as getting into work and improving community cohesion represents good value for money?

Question J – Councillor Jones will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

If Medway Council followed Reform UK's advice and tried to opt out of the Local Government Pension Scheme – what would happen legally and what bill might we face?

Question K – Councillor Peake will ask the Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Councillor Browne, the following:

If Medway attempted to side line our external auditors and replace them with Reform UK's version of DOGE, what risks would we be exposed to?

Question L – Councillor Finch will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

Given that the Leader of the Council attended a meeting with Peel L&P and ArcelorMittal Kent Wire in January 2024, where Peel L&P reportedly stated they were not minded to sell Chatham Docks, why does the Leader continue to imply that ArcelorMittal could resolve the issue simply by acquiring the site risking misleading the public and stakeholders about the realistic prospects for securing the future of the working docks?

Question M – Councillor Vye will ask the Chairperson of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Councillor Murray, the following:

Can the Chairperson of the Health and Wellbeing Board confirm the full financial cost, including any committed or anticipated expenditure, associated with Medway's participation in the Marmot Place initiative to date, specifying what concrete, measurable health outcomes or cost-benefit assessments have been recorded to demonstrate value for money for residents?