

Public Questions

Question A – John Baker, of Gillingham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry, the following:

“While the draft Local Plan acknowledges the need to consider Article 4 Directions, it offers no firm commitment or timeline. With other local authorities actively adopting Article 4 protections, there is now a growing risk that developers will increasingly target areas like Medway where those safeguards are absent. This could result in the loss of family homes, disruption to community cohesion, and irreversible changes to residential neighbourhoods.

Will the Cabinet therefore urgently commit to accelerating the Article 4 Direction process as a standalone priority, rather than deferring it to the broader Local Plan timeline?”

Question B - William Burvill, of Strood, will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

“Can the Medway Labour leader clarify whether, like the Labour Party at conference, they believe the 88,997 residents here in Medway who voted Leave are racists, fascists, bigots, or people who hate their own country?”

Question C – Alan Wells, of Chatham, will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

“In this 80th year since the formation of the United Nations, I am asking this question on behalf of Medway United Nations Association.

While the United Nations (UN) doesn't directly influence a Local Plan's content, local councils are encouraged to align their plans with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as local governments are considered best-placed to link global goals to local communities.

All of the SDGs have targets that are directly or indirectly related to the daily work of local and regional governments. Local governments are policy makers, catalysts of change and the level of government best-placed to link the global goals with local communities.

I would, therefore like to ask the following:-

What impact or influence has the UN's SDGs had on the decisions the Council has made in aligning its policies and priorities for localising the 17 global goals, particularly in areas like climate action and social deprivation?”