

Public Question (Relating to Agenda Item No.9, Pride In Place Impact Fund)

Question A - Bryan Fowler of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder of Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment, Councillor Harinder Mahil, the following:

“The public toilets at Chatham Bus Station are a gruesome place and the Disabled Persons/baby Changing Cubicle has been closed since August 2025.

Will the Council consider using Pride in Place funds to restore these facilities?”

Public Questions

Question B - Benjamin Pranzcke of Gillingham, will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Vince Maple, the following:

“Medway Council has now submitted its bold vision for local government, truly Kent Reimagined, which is now with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).

Does the Leader agree with me that the model from Kent County Council (KCC) which basically is “Back to the Future” effectively trying to delete the last 27 years is not fit for purpose, and with a single council means the Reform leadership are making it much less likely that devolution resources and powers will be available to communities across Kent & Medway?”

Question C - Neil Davies of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder of Housing and Homelessness, Councillor Louwella Prenter, the following:

“Homelessness and rough sleeping in Medway has increased since 2020 by between 90% and 170% depending on which source and which specific definition is used.

Given those figures and the extra £500,000 that was given to Medway in October last year by central government taking the budget over the original £4.6 million, how does the Council feel its progressing with its plan to reduce homelessness within Medway by 2030?”

Member Questions

Question D – Councillor Joanne Howcroft-Scott will ask the Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment, Councillor Harinder Mahil, the following:

“Following the success of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund scheme, can the Portfolio Holder update on what role community groups, cultural organisations and local institutions have played so far, and setting out how will they continue to be involved as projects move into delivery?”

Question E - Councillor Chris Spalding will ask the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Alex Paterson, the following:

“Can the Portfolio Holder state how many flags were removed from lamp posts and other street furniture within All Saints ward specifying the number by village:

- a) Allhallows;
- b) Grain;
- c) Stoke; and
- d) St Mary Hoo.

In giving his response, the Portfolio Holder should state the combined cost of this removal and what has happened to the flags that have been removed?”

Question F - Councillor George Perfect will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Vince Maple, the following:

“Can the Leader of the Council please provide an update on the outcome of his recent meeting with the Minister for Local Government Baroness Taylor of Stevenage?”

Question G - Councillor Habib Tejan will ask the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Alex Paterson, the following:

“How is the administration measuring the impact of digital transformation on service efficiency and cost reduction, specifically what barriers have delayed the delivery of the Financial Improvement and Transformation (FIT) plan savings and what is been done to overcome them?”

Question H - Councillor Andrew Lawrence will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness, Councillor Louwella Prenter, the following:

“Can the Portfolio Holder please advise how many unlicensed Households in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are operating in Medway and what action she is taking to bring these into compliance, in giving her answer would the Portfolio Holder agree with me that enforcement action may actually deter those who see Medway as "paved in gold" for creating new HMOs?”

Question I - Councillor Phil Filmer will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Simon Curry, the following:

“Can the Portfolio Holder please explain how the proposed Article 4 Direction will not displace the issue of Households in Multiple Occupations (HMOS) into areas of Medway not covered by the Article 4 Direction?”