

Public Question

(Relating to Agenda Item No.19, Redevelopment of Brook Multi Storey Car Park)

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

“The Cabinet papers indicate a determined approach to sell the Brook Car Park for housing.

Can the Portfolio Holder explain how this paper has been informed by both the recent strategic review of car parking (as mentioned by Councillor Paterson at the Cabinet on 21st October) and also the retail strategy for Chatham?”

Member Questions

(Relating to Agenda Item No.11, Revenue Budget Monitoring - Round 3 2025 / 2026)

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

“The Cabinet has responsibility for managing the budget. Can the Leader of the Council set out what assurances on spending the Cabinet has committed to HM Government in order to receive the millions of pounds of exceptional financial support he needed to balance his budget for 2025-26, as one of only 30 principal local authorities in England to receive that support out of a total of 317, stating if he will resign as Leader if he fails to balance his budget for a third time at the end of 2026-27 without exceptional financial support?”

(Relating to Agenda Item No.15, Proposed Capital and Revenue Budgets 2026 / 2027)

Question C – Councillor Perfect will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

“The Leader of the Council has repeatedly claimed that he intends 2026/7 to be the final year of using exceptional financial support. How does he square this with the latest Medium Term Financial Projections (Appendix 8) showing an ever-increasing gap until Local Government Reorganisation?”

Question D – Councillor Hackwell, will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

“Regarding the FIT plan, it should be noted that the Council has delivered 81% of the savings targeted in its Financial Improvement and Transformation plan but the dashboard (One Medway Financial Improvement and Transformation Plan 2025-26 Q3 Update) indicates only 32% of activities have achieved their targets. Can the Leader of the Council outline how the programmes and activities that are behind are being managed to recover and what the non-delivery risks to the 2026/27 draft position are?”

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

“Can the Leader of the Council please update the Council on what discussions he has had since the publication of the draft local government settlement with the Local Government Secretary, Ministers, or Members of Parliament, regarding the £8m worth of money which Medway was shortchanged by?”

Question F – Councillor Wildey will ask the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Murray, the following:

“Given the projected increase of costs in adult social care of a net £7.629million in 2026/27 and the surmounting pressures of residential nursing care, can the Portfolio Holder provide evidence and justification that the budget has space for the Vanity project that is the proposed Council run care home?”

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

“With the £3.515 million increase in the Interest and Financing budget because of extra borrowing, has the Council prepared a budget that can withstand higher interests’ rates with their excessive borrowing and ensure services can be properly funded and managed for our residents?”

Question H – Councillor Filmer will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

“The fairer funding review was around £8m less than Medway Council officers anticipated in the draft budget presented on 18th November, this has ramped up the overspend which is already relying on high levels of borrowing to keep the Council afloat. How does the Cabinet intend to mitigate the results of the fairer funding review within the 2026/27 budget?”

Public Questions

Question I – Raza Griffiths, of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry, the following:

“Can the Council, which has stated its aspiration to develop a "modern transport network", detail what practical progress has been made against the timetable for the installation of the new Real Time Information system, as per the Bus Improvement Plan for 2025-26 and what remains to be done - in particular, regarding Chatham Bus Station's information systems?”

Question J – Elizabeth Kebbell, of Chatham, will ask the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Murray, the following:

“Medway’s population is continuing to grow, yet many residents already experience long waiting times and severely limited access to mental health support. How is the Council planning to ensure that future mental health infrastructure will be sufficient to meet need, and what planning is in place to address existing gaps for current demand?”

Question K – John Castle, of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry, the following:

“Over the holiday period of 2025/2026 no brown bin collection occurred from Monday 22nd December to Monday 12th January, 3 weeks in total.

I appreciate that there are likely good reasons why this wasn't possible, however this is a long period of time and it's also a period where food waste could be higher than normal for many residents. I noticed that many residents where I lived put brown bins out every week in the expectation of collection.

Can the Council commit to shortening the period without brown bin collection in the future?”

Question L – Milo O’Connor, of Rochester, will ask the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Murray, the following:

“With evidence showing that pressures on GP appointment systems contribute to late cancer diagnoses, what specific measures is Medway Council implementing to help Medway GPs spot cancer earlier?”

Member Questions

Question M – Councillor Spalding will ask the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Murray, the following:

“Following reports the elective care centre planned for the former Debenhams site in Chatham designed to relieve pressure on Medway Hospital is not going ahead, can the Portfolio Holder please update the Council as to why this has occurred? In answering, the Portfolio Holder should state how much Medway Council money has gone into this project and why this possibility was not foreseen when Council involvement in this project was considered.”

Question N – Councillor Finch will ask the Portfolio Holder of Housing and Homelessness, Councillor Louwella Prenter, the following:

“Following the update from the Portfolio Holder at the last Cabinet meeting, could the Council provide a detailed breakdown of how the additional £533,000 received from central government to support homelessness and rough sleeping has been allocated?”

In giving the answer, the Portfolio Holder should confirm whether any of this funding has been or will be made available to local voluntary or community organisations supporting homelessness prevention and rough sleeping services in Medway”

Question O – Councillor Lawrence, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry, the following:

“At the Cabinet meeting on the 13th of January 2026, the Cabinet took the decision to award the FM Contract to 10 separate businesses. This change involves transferring 51 staff from Medway Norse to Medway Council. At the aforementioned Cabinet Meeting the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Teresa Murray, stated that Medway Norse Staff had been consulted on the changes and she further stated that Medway Norse had failed to provide regular updates on performance across the various contracts managed by Medway Norse. This is clearly untrue.

Can the Portfolio Holder please advise the difference in costs, salary, pension annual leave entitlements to Medway Council taxpayers for the 51 staff being transferred from Medway Norse on the assumption that these staff will be given Medway Council Staff Contracts of Employment? In giving his answer will he please advise when the consultation with Medway Norse staff began.”