

Members' Questions

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

"Can the Portfolio Holder provide the number of Medway Council Staff who reside in Medway and in doing so break this data down to ward level number(s)?"

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

"Further to the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement's comments that potholes "is something that elected Members should keep well out of", can the Leader of the Council advise Members of any other areas that elected Members, including his own backbenchers, should keep well out of?"

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

"Local Government reorganisation for Kent and Medway continues and does so at a pace that should now be ringing alarm bells. The existing timetable suggests the chosen option for Kent and Medway is expected to be announced before the summer parliamentary recess on 16 July 2026 with new authorities planned to go live on 1 April 2028 and elections to same held on 6 May 2027.

For an election on 6 May 2027, notices of election are required to be published no later than Monday 29 March 2027. The time between announcement of the new authorities and their composition and the latest date for publishing notices of elections is some eight and a half months.

In that time not only must the Electoral Commission undertake ward/division boundary reorganisation including full consultation, but Kent and Medway need to have in place new ward/division electoral registers, and everything associated with same, such as polling districts and polling places.

When Medway changed from 55 councillors in 22 wards to 59 councillors in 24 wards, the review process took place commencing in December 2019 with the final recommendations being presented in March 2021.

The proposed changes were then approved by Parliament some six months later courtesy of The Medway (Electoral Changes) Order 2021 on 20 September 2021.

The changes therein were to take effect in May 2023.

There was a comprehensive and thorough review over time followed by a significant and adequate period of time for Medway to enact the changes at a sensible pace, which also no doubt had cost saving considerations therein.

The current proposed timetable appears rushed, clearly inadequate and unworkable.

Does the Leader of the Council agree the timetable should be amended and any changes for Kent and Medway delayed, to primarily ensure adequate and transparent consultation, as well as allow sufficient time to enact any changes at

minimal cost to the taxpayers, permitting the electorate of Medway to give their verdict at the ballot box on this Labour administration?”

Question D – Councillor Sands will ask the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Murray, the following:

“The Hoo Peninsula is expected to accommodate substantial housing growth, yet there remains a lack of clarity and certainty around healthcare provision to support that expansion.

Residents on the Peninsula already experience constrained access to GP services and routinely having to travel to Gillingham to meet basic healthcare needs. This reflects existing system pressure, not a future projection.

I believe the issue before this Council is therefore one of delivery and credibility. If housing growth proceeds without secured and timely healthcare provision, it risks undermining both resident wellbeing and their confidence. In that context, the following points require clear and accountable responses please.

What is the current baseline of GP provision serving the Hoo Peninsula? In giving her answer, the Portfolio Holder should include the projected capacity gap as development comes forward and whether the Council is working with the NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board to align infrastructure planning with growth.”

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

“The Inspectors’ Initial Queries letter dated 27th March, for the Local Plan Examination, asks the Council to clarify which submission documents were not available at the Regulation 19 consultation and how that issue will be addressed, and also notes that further consultation may be necessary where new evidence or other documents are submitted on which interested parties have not had the opportunity to comment.

In light of paragraphs 16 and 31 of the letter, will the Leader of the Council now commit that any new document, or any materially amended document, that was not part of the Regulation 19 consultation will be subject to public consultation before the Examination proceeds to hearings?”