

Cabinet

5 May 2026

Questions to the Cabinet

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Vince Maple, Leader of the Council
Report from: Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director Legal and Governance
Author: Vanessa Etheridge/Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officers

Summary

This report sets out the questions received for this meeting.

1. Background

- 1.1. At its meeting on [23 January 2025](#), Full Council was advised and noted that a 6 month trial of taking questions from members of the public and Councillors relating to Cabinet (executive) functions would commence in the new municipal year (June 2025), with relevant parts of Sections 8.3 and 9.1 of the Council Rules applying. It was agreed that a maximum period of 20 minutes would be allowed for this agenda item, with any questions not dealt with at the meeting receiving written responses.
- 1.2. After a successful trial, at its meeting on [22 January 2026](#), Full Council agreed to make these changes permanent and make the necessary amendments to the Constitution. Rules for questions to the Cabinet are now governed by section 3, Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Constitution, questions received will be taken as follows:
 - 3.3.1. Questions relating to items on the Cabinet agenda
 - (i) Questions from members of the public (Members of the public who have not submitted questions before during the current electoral term (since May 2023) will be given priority over those who have).
 - (ii) Questions from Members.

3.3.2. Questions relating to Cabinet (executive functions)

(i) Questions from members of the public (Members of the public who have not submitted questions before during the current electoral term (since May 2023) will be given priority over those who have).

(ii) Questions from Members.

1.3. For the avoidance of doubt, questions will be listed in the order they were received, subject to being prioritised as set out above. Any questions that have not been answered at the meeting within the time limit will be answered in writing after the meeting.

1.4. Deadlines for submitting questions have been published on the [Council's website](#), (no later than Midday, three working days before the Cabinet meeting) with any questions received for a meeting being published in a supplementary agenda.

1.5. Any questions received for this meeting will be set out in Appendix 1 of the supplementary agenda, in the order they were received, allowing for the rules above.

2. Public Questions

2.1. The questioner is entitled to put one short supplementary question arising from the response at the meeting and have one supplementary reply. The time allowed for the answer to each supplementary question shall not exceed three minutes.

3. Councillor Questions

3.1. For the avoidance of doubt, Members are not entitled to ask supplementary questions and may receive answers in writing after the meeting if they do not attend the meeting.

4. Record of questions

4.1. Where questions have been answered at the meeting, a summary of the answers will be included as an appendix to the report setting out questions to be included in the next Cabinet meeting agenda.

4.2. Where questions have been answered after the meeting, i.e. written responses, a summary of the answers will be published on the Council's website alongside the Cabinet meeting agenda as soon as reasonably practicable. The summary of the answers will also be included as an appendix to the report setting out questions to be included in the next Cabinet meeting agenda.

Lead officer contact

Vanessa Etheridge/Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officers

democratic.services@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Schedule of questions relating to items on the Cabinet Agenda, and Cabinet functions (to follow in a supplementary agenda)

Appendix 2 – Questions with responses given at the last meeting of the Cabinet

Background papers

[Council – 23 January 2025 Agenda and minutes](#)

[Council – 22 January 2026 Agenda and minutes](#)

[Council Constitution](#)