

**COUNCIL**  
**12 JANUARY 2012**  
**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Wayne Hemingway, Democratic Services Officer

**Summary**

To set out the public questions received for this meeting.

**1. Background**

1.1 Section 8.3 of the Council Rules, as laid out in the Council's constitution, sets out the rules for the receipt of public questions as follows:

- At any one meeting no person may submit more than two questions and no more than two questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation. Members of the public who have not submitted questions before will be given priority over those who have, and second questions will only be dealt with when all first questions have been dealt with. Any questions that have not been dealt with within the time limits will receive a written reply after the meeting.

1.2 The questions received for this meeting are set out in below in the order they were received, allowing for the rules above.

**2. Public questions**

2.1 **Keith Clear of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact, Councillor O'Brien, the following question:**

Owing to the high level of anti-social behaviour regarding drugs, alcohol and foul and abusive behaviour, can the Portfolio Holder tell me whether the Council will extend the Chatham Alcohol Control Zone to include Luton Road, Chatham?

2.2 **Anne Wade MBE, Chairman of the Frindsbury and Wainscott Community Association, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth, Councillor Chitty, the following question:**

In the light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which places emphasis on economic growth as being the most important consideration of any planning decision, what assurances can the Council give that Open Space and the Countryside will be given as of equal importance? The record to date has not been reassuring – especially in our most recent experience of Manor Farm Pit.

**2.3 Mike Hewson-Jones of Rochester will ask the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Councillor Brake, the following question:**

My wife who attends the Balfour Centre is transported there in one of the specially adapted buses for this purpose. The proposals to close the Balfour centre would imperil this valuable service and force my wife and others to try to use public transport to access other services.

Does the Portfolio Holder know what percentage of Arriva buses in use around Medway are adapted for disabled people with a designated space for wheelchairs?

**2.4 Shirley Hewson-Jones of Rochester will ask the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Councillor Brake, the following question:**

Why does the consultation document about the proposals to close the Balfour Centre ask service users to prioritise which parts of the service they receive there, when all services are of equal importance to us?

**2.5 Robert Heathfield of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following question:**

During my own enquiries, I have been told:

- a) by Arriva that they have scrapped their 'Happy Max' fare deal for financial reasons arising from a loss of Medway Council subsidies, but;
- b) by Medway Council that no subsidies have been cut.

Nonetheless, whichever is true, I as a bus user am experiencing a reduced service. Can the Portfolio Holder confirm which of these statements is correct, and provide explanatory detail for confused bus users?

**2.6 Maureen Ruparel of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Councillor Brake, the following question:**

I understand that staff who are TUPEd over to a private company have job protection for a limited time, but experience has shown that in many cases there is a 'reorganisation' of staff after this time and some staff either lose their jobs, or have to accept new contracts at a lower pay scale.

What guarantee can the Portfolio Holder give that after privatisation the level of staffing at Nelson Court will stay the same as it is now?

**2.7 Keith Clear of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact, Councillor O'Brien, the following question:**

Owing to the high level of anti-social behaviour regarding drugs, alcohol and foul and abusive behaviour, can the Portfolio Holder tell me whether the Council will install CCTV opposite the tattoo parlour, Luton Road, Chatham. This would then make it easier for the police to take action against the offenders of anti-social behaviour and those that drive past causing damage to parked vehicles.

**2.8 Anne Wade MBE, Chairman of the Frindsbury and Wainscott Community Association, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth, Councillor Chitty, the following question:**

In view of the large unacceptable number of houses allocated to the Medway Towns, what assurances can the Council give that the infrastructure to support that growth is actually going to be provided – particularly the Medway Maritime Hospital, with no room for expansion on the site.

**Lead officer contact**

Wayne Hemingway, Democratic Services Officer

T: 01634 332509

E: [wayne.hemingway@medway.gov.uk](mailto:wayne.hemingway@medway.gov.uk)

**Background papers**

None