
Question Time: 18 October 2019

Members asked questions of members the Cabinet and chairmen as set out below. In instances where a Cabinet Member, the Leader or a chairman undertook to take follow-up action, this is also noted below.

Best Start in Life

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

The Leader answered questions on the following matters.

Written questions 6 and 7, Woodlands Meed School, from Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Bradbury, Mrs Jones and Ms Lord.

The Leader said he would liaise with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to assess the current situation and would then contact the four members for a discussion.

A Prosperous Place

Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters.

Request to relocate traffic lights, from Mr Fitzjohn.

Competitive funding opportunities for local authorities (page 82), from Mr Crow, Dr Dennis and Mr S J Oakley.

In response to a question from Mr Crow about the Hazelwick roundabout in Crawley and the time scale for the installation of signals, the Cabinet Member said he would find out and let him know.

A27 (page 82), from Mr Montyn and Mr S J Oakley.

In relation to the A27 consultation, in response to a question from Mr Oakley about the A27 at Chichester and whether it was possible to get an all-options consultation within RIS 2 and implementation in RIS 3, the Cabinet Member said he would explore whether it was possible to get a commitment.

A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place

Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters.

Hate Crime Awareness Week (page 84), from Mr Edwards.

In response to a request for support for the broadening of the definition of hate crime to include political beliefs, for putting in place a policy to deal with malicious communications to members and staff, the provision of training and the compilation of a register of people known to commit such crime to protect members and staff, the Cabinet Member said she would ask her successor to consider the suggestions.

County Line Intensification (page 84), from Mrs Arculus, Mrs Millson and Dr Walsh.

Independence in Later Life

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

The Cabinet Member answered a question from Mr Cloake on funding for foyer units.

The Cabinet Member said she would respond to Mr Cloake with an update.

A Council that works for the Community

Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters.

Mental health first responders for staff, from Ms Goldsmith.

In response to a request for the Council to consider mental health first responders for staff the Cabinet Member said consideration would be given to extending the current initiative within the Fire & Rescue Service to all staff.

Next generation broadband (page 85), from Mrs Dennis.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

The Cabinet Member answered a question on written question 1, from Dr Walsh.

Chairman of the Governance Committee

In relation to written question 1 and the following questions from Mr Jones, Mr Oxlade, Mr Quinn and Ms Sudan, the Chairman said she would provide answers where possible to all members.

- Have some on the list been paid on a daily pay rate and, if so, what was the highest daily pay rate?
- A list of all those staff who have been or are paid a daily rate in the last 12 months, with details of the rate
- If the Chairman agreed that the current situation of the Council was no surprise given the evidence of so many changes in staff?
- How much has been spent advertising the same positions within the last 10 years, if not in name, in terms of the broad responsibilities?
- How much has been spent in settlement or severance pay?
- What the pension liability is in total for those on the list no longer employed?
- How many on the list have appealed against the decision for them to leave the Council's employment?
- How many of the positions listed attracted a payment to facilitate relocating to West Sussex?
- For how many positions has the Council met or contributed towards accommodation costs excluding one-night stays and away days?
- What was the total cost for such expenditure over the period of time in question?
- Why was role of Executive Director Resource Services considered necessary?
- What was the purpose of the role?
- Why was it no longer deemed necessary two months later?
- What was the annual salary offered and how much did it cost to advertise and fill the position?