
Question Time: 22 October 2021

Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet. In instances where a Cabinet Member or the Leader undertook to take follow-up action, this is noted.

Leader

The Leader answered questions on Afghan nationals arriving in the UK, from Cllr Burgess, Cllr Chowdhury and Cllr O’Kelly.

Cabinet Member for Adults Services

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Shortfall in intermediate care beds and closure of Marjorie Cobby House, from Cllr Johnson and Cllr O’Kelly.

Changing futures initiative, from Cllr Albury.

Social care levy, from Cllr Wall.

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member answered questions the following matters:

Early help redesign, from Cllr Baxter.

Impact of the pandemic on children and young people’s mental health, from Cllr Cherry, Cllr Hillier and Cllr O’Kelly.

The refurbishment of the High Trees and Teasel Close children’s homes in Crawley, from Cllr Quinn.

In response to a question about and where the children will be accommodated whilst the work is carried out, the Cabinet Member said she would write to Cllr Quinn.

Foster carers, from Cllr A Cooper.

Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills

The Cabinet Member answered a question on the following matters:

Free school meals and school holidays, from Cllr Dunton.

Woodlands Meed School, from Cllr Cherry.

Impact of Covid on schools, from Cllr Lord and Cllr Smith.

In response to a question from Cllr Lord about measures to control Covid-19 within schools, the Cabinet Member said he would send her a copy of a recent circular to headteachers.

In response to a question from Cllr Smith about support in schools for children and staff with long Covid, the Cabinet Member said he would respond to her.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Fire and Rescue

The Cabinet Member answered questions on Afghan nationals arriving in the UK, from Cllr Burgess and Cllr O’Kelly.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Sale of Council assets and climate change, from Cllr Lord and Cllr Joy.

EV charging points, from Cllr Ali, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Cornell, Cllr O’Kelly and Cllr Sharp.

Solar Together, from Cllr Burgess, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Condie, Cllr Greenway and Cllr Lord.

In relation to applications to Solar Together, Cllr Lord asked for clarification as to whether, if residents pay a deposit to receive further information and then wish to withdraw from the scheme, they would get their deposit back. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change said she would find out and respond to Cllr Lord.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

As Chairman of the Pensions Committee on Pension Fund investment policy and climate change, from Cllr Condie and Cllr Oakley.

Sale of Council assets and climate change, from Cllr Lord and Cllr Joy.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Cycle paths, from Cllr Boram and Cllr Markwell.

Congestion at junction of A264 and A22, from Cllr Gibson.

In response to request from Cllr Gibson for there to be discussions with Surrey County Council about viable ways of relieving the traffic congestion on the A264/A22 junction and related local road network, the Cabinet Member said she would include the issue on the agenda for a forthcoming meeting. The Cabinet Member also accepted an invitation from Cllr Gibson to visit the junction with him.

A285 repairs at Duncton, from Cllr Oakley, Cllr Richardson and Cllr Sharp.

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Vaccination boosters and pressure on health services, from Cllr A Cooper, Cllr Cornell and Cllr Walsh.

In response to a request from Cllr Cornell for an update on the current pressure within the NHS across West Sussex due to Covid-19, the Cabinet Member said he would respond to her.

In response to the news that just over 9,000 children aged 12 to 15 years in West Sussex had received a first Covid-19 vaccination, Cllr Walsh asked about the size of that cohort of children and the Cabinet Member said he would let him know.

Access to health services and NHS dentistry, from Cllr Lord and Cllr Pudaloff.

On access to NHS dentistry, in response to a request from Cllr Lord, the Cabinet Member said he would look at the issue of the lack of NHS services available in West Sussex.

In response to a question from Cllr Pudaloff about problems with access to GPs and NHS dentistry and help available from the County Council to find pathways to services, the Cabinet Member said he would respond to her. He also agreed to respond with the measures being taken to assist digital inclusion.

Cabinet Member for Support Services and Economic Development

The Cabinet Member answered a question on economic recovery in Worthing, from Cllr Sparkes.