
Question Time: 27 May 2022

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 the following matters:

Visitor economy across Sussex, from Cllr Cherry, Cllr Cornell, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Lord and Cllr Nagel.

Funding for a free public Wi-Fi space for each borough and district, from Cllr Ali and Cllr Kerry-Bedell.

Cabinet Member for Adults Services

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Urgent action decision on the contract for Adults Services professional services support, from Cllr Baxter.

In response to a request, the Cabinet Member agreed to provide Cllr Baxter with an explanation of the aims and output of the procurement process and the need for urgency.

Recruitment of qualified social workers from overseas, from Cllr Ali, Cllr Condie, Cllr O'Kelly, Cllr Oppler and Cllr Payne.

The Cabinet Member agreed to a request from Cllr O'Kelly to provide figures on how many social work staff who were EU nationals have left the Council.

The Cabinet Member also agreed to a request from Cllr Condie for detail about how the recruitment agency ensures that all safeguarding considerations are accounted for.

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the Youth Cabinet, from Cllr Burgess and Cllr Greenway.

Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

School place planning, from Cllr Gibson, Cllr Linehan and Cllr Lord.

Latest Ofsted reports, from Cllr Sparkes.

Draft Education Strategy, from Cllr Cornell and Cllr Mercer.

In response to a question from Cllr Mercer about whether the progress of the SEND inclusion strategy will go the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee in July 2022, the Cabinet Member agreed that this would be the case.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Electric Vehicle Chargepoint project, from Cllr Cornell, Cllr O'Kelly, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Turley and Cllr Walsh.

In relation to a question from Cllr Quinn, the Cabinet Member advised that district and borough council members would be invited to the webinar for members on this topic.

Written question 3, from Cllr Kerry-Bedell and Cllr Montyn.

Scheme to recycle hard plastic waste, from Cllr Condie, Cllr Duncton, Cllr O'Kelly, Cllr Quinn and Cllr Walsh.

Carbon neutrality and County Council buildings, from Cllr Boram, Cllr Mercer and Cllr O'Kelly.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

The Cabinet Member answered questions on maximising the use of the Council's assets, from Cllr Cooper.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Countywide road safety review, from Cllr Albury, Cllr N Dennis and Cllr Sharp.

Cycling and walking network, from Cllr Sharp

With reference to the Government's Active Travel fund, Cllr Sharp commented that she understood that failure to follow current guidance could lead to cuts in funding. She asked whether the Council's continued use of 'cyclists dismount' signs, which were no longer recommended, could lead to cuts to wider transport funding. The Cabinet Member agreed to check with officers and let her know.

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Public Health priorities, from Cllr Hillier and Cllr McGregor.

Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS), in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, from Cllr Cornell, Cllr O'Kelly and Cllr Smith.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing also agreed to provide for Cllr Cornell and all members, an illustration of how the agencies work together to commission and deliver CAMHS.

In response to a question on the number of embedded CAMHS officers in schools, the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing agreed to send the figures to Cllr O'Kelly.

In relation to CAMHS waiting lists, the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing agreed to discuss an individual case with Cllr Smith.

Cabinet Member for Support Services and Economic Development

The Cabinet Member answered questions on enhanced digital infrastructure supporting the county's horticultural sector, from Cllr Atkins, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Kenyon and Cllr Lord.