

Cabinet 9th July 2024 Public Questions and Answers

| Name of person submitting | Questions |
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| <p>Goff Welchman</p> | <p>My questions concern Public Question Time itself, which is an agenda item, and are therefore allowed under your current constitution.</p> <p>“I have previously asked questions about 3 Rivers and been highly dissatisfied with the responses received, which I consider to be either evasive or inaccurate.</p> <p>Question 1: Now that I am no longer allowed to question such responses, which avenues now remain open, for the public to challenge those replies? Without any appropriate avenue, responders will be able to say whatever they like, whether truthful or not.</p> <p>Response from the Leader of the Council: Mr Welchman, there is no item on the agenda related to 3 Rivers. However on your general point about questions, the public can ask questions relating to any item on the agenda for that meeting. If a question is more general in nature, or if members of the public are unsure at which committee it should be asked, they can either ask officers in Democratic Services to check in advance, or ask their question at full council – where questions relating to any council matter will be allowed.</p> <p>Question 2: In view of this block on challenging responses, will the chair of the meeting, at which the replies are minuted, take full responsibility for their accuracy and veracity?”</p> <p>Response from the Leader of the Council: I note that you remain dissatisfied. However, responses to public questions are not an item for debate. The minutes agreed by each committee are to reflect an accurate record of the committee’s debate, discussion and decisions at each meeting, ensuring the public record openly and transparently reflects members’ considerations.</p> |

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| <p>Nick Quinn</p> | <p>I see that the Planning Enforcement- Enforcement Policy Update, which was scheduled to come to this meeting of the Cabinet, has been put back. It is now listed as “Not before 15th Oct 2024”</p> <p>Question 1: What is the reason for the delay in presenting this very important Policy?</p> <p>Response from Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration: The previous discussion on the planning enforcement policy demonstrated that further discussions and work were necessary before re-presentation of the document to Members and for formal consideration. Government introduced new guidance in April, other recent changes have been made to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Time has therefore been scheduled to allow for this consideration and work to take place. Following the outcome of the 4th July General Election, the new Government indicates that new policy changes will be made to the NPPF.</p> <p>Question 2: What is the significance of the 15th of October 2024 - why can the policy not come to Cabinet before that date?</p> <p>Response from Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration: There is no specific significance of the 15th October – as per my previous answer; the timing allows work to take place and for formal consideration of the document through the relevant committee, as per the Council’s governance arrangements.</p> <p>Question 3: It is a long time since the public saw the initial draft policy at Scrutiny Committee in February 2024, where it came in for considerable criticism by both Members of Scrutiny Committee and the public. Will the revised draft policy be circulated for public comment, and input, before it comes to Cabinet?</p> <p>Response from Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration: As previously stated; the policy will be considered through the relevant committee or committees and will then, as appropriate, be represented to Cabinet for approval. Opportunities for public comment and engagement will exist during this time.</p> |
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