

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 45 QUESTIONS – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Notice of the following questions has been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 45:-

1. Question to the Executive Member (Leisure, Culture and Communications) from Councillor Sunny Thusu

‘This was the second year of the BIG Summer programme of events for young people in Welwyn Hatfield during the summer holidays. I understand a host of activities were arranged and that they were well received. Could the portfolio holder confirm the number of events, how many youngsters took advantage, give an example of what was on offer and give his thoughts as to the success of BIG Summer 2018?’

2. Question to the Leader from Councillor Helen Quenet

‘I’m aware the County Council and the LEP have expressed significant concern over the economic and workforce impacts of Brexit, particularly highlighting the very serious problems a no-deal Brexit will present to delivering County Council services. In contrast this Council seems to have little idea of the consequences and impacts on Borough Council service delivery for Welwyn Hatfield residents, let alone have civil emergency plans in place or even be aware if these might be needed.

Can the Leader of the Council therefore please update us on the Borough Council plans that have been drawn up for the various forms of Brexit including what economic impact are we to expect locally for the different Brexit scenarios?’

3. Question to the Executive Member (Housing and Community)/Leader from Councillor Lynn Chesterman

‘More private landlords are refusing to take residents who are supported by benefits and the rise in Welwyn Hatfield residents in temporary accommodation (including the use of bed and breakfast for the first time) has resulted in our staff carrying case loads of 2.5 times what they should be responsible for. Would the Portfolio Holder or Leader please inform the Council as to whether they have written to the appropriate Secretary of State to raise concerns at the effects that this dire situation has on our residents and staff?’

4. Question to the Leader from Councillor Samuel Kasumu

“The examination of our Borough’s draft Local Plan by the Government-appointed inspector has been underway for some time now.

Under the legislation, as I understand it, the ultimate authority to determine whether or not our Local Plan is “sound” lies with the Government-appointed inspector, and not with the Council itself.

Given this, would the Leader be able to outline the sanctions from central Government that this Council could potentially face, if, by the end of the process, we were unable to agree a “sound” Local Plan with the inspector?”

5. Question to the Leader from Councillor Siobhan Elam

“Under the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme launched in 2015, this Council has, to date, received and housed two Syrian families. Can the Leader of the Council please tell us if Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council have any plans to receive additional Syrian families to bring it in line with the numbers so far received by other Boroughs across Hertfordshire?”

6. Question to the Leader from Councillor Glyn Hayes

“Sickness due to stress is on an upward trend across the Country. What is our current level of sickness due to stress and has it increased over the last five years?”

7. Question to the Leader from Councillor Max Holloway

“With Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) related hate-crime on the rise and one in five LGBT people experiencing a hate crime incident within the last twelve months, does the Leader agree that not taking part in London or Herts Pride, and failing to acknowledge pride or any form of LGBT recognition is a missed opportunity? In fact there has been no mention of any form of LGBT issue awareness on the Council's social media since 2015. Would she please be able to tell me what plans are in place, both internally and externally to address this?”

8. Question to the Leader from Councillor Malcolm Cowan

“Has this Council’s performance on enforcement changed since I asked about this at the previous meeting?”